



MUHLENBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT




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MEMORANDUM

TO: Muhlenberg School District Employees and Volunteers

FROM: Joseph E. Macharola, Ed. D. 

DATE: January 20, 2015

RE: Act 153 and Act 168

Pennsylvania House and Senate members passed additional child abuse protection legislation that former Governor Corbett signed into law late last year. These laws are known as Act 153 (House Bill 435 - Background Checks) and Act 168 (House Bill 1816 - "Pass the Trash"). As a result, the Muhlenberg School District Board of Directors also adopted a new and revised Policy No. 806. Child Abuse to coincide with legislation in the Commonwealth.

Broadly speaking, Act 153 requires employees having contact with children to obtain certifications or clearances. Act 168 was enacted to prevent schools from hiring teachers, coaches, or staff who have abused, harassed, or sexually exploited students or children in their present or past employment.

Current employees with clearances older than three (3) years as of December 31, 2014, must get new ones within one (1) year of December 31, 2014 (no later than December 30, 2015). Current clearances that are less than three (3) years old will expire at the three (3) year anniversary, and those employees will need to get them before that anniversary, even if that means earlier than December 30, 2015.

A process to address this legislation has been developed for the Muhlenberg School District and our employees:

- The district is inventorying the dates of all existing clearances.
- A tracking system has been established.
- A renewal system has been created to notify those employees who need updated clearances.
- A letter will be sent to those employees notifying them of the requirement for new clearances.

Information on the process is located on our website at www.muhsdk12.org with additional links under District Headlines & Features, and Quick Links. Questions regarding this process should be directed to Ivana J. Schlott at [610-921-8000](tel:610-921-8000) x1280.

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