



EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERISM

The ECE Program offers various opportunities for parents and guardians to become involved in their child's education such as: participation in classes, local parent meetings, attending workshops, home visits by program staff, and other educational activities offered throughout the year.

Parents/guardians can also become involved by becoming a volunteer. Volunteers often help with in-class presentations, chaperone field trips, and assist with various activities that are centered around parental involvement. All volunteers must have a current FBI Background Check, PA Child Abuse History Clearance, and PA Criminal Background Record Check and TB Test in order to volunteer. The process to obtain background clearances to volunteer in schools has recently changed. The following rules are now in place:

- If you have previously been cleared to volunteer with the Early Childhood Program or Pittsburgh Public Schools, your clearances are good for 5 years from the date of the clearance.
- PA State Criminal History Report: Visit <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>. This is free of charge, but there may be a fee if you have requested free clearances within 5 years.
- Child Abuse Certification: Visit www.compass.state.pa.us/CWIS. This is free of charge, but there may be a fee if you have requested free clearances within 5 years.
- FBI Criminal History Report: Visit <https://uenroll.identogo.com/workflows/1KG6Y3> to apply online (cost is \$27.50) or mail a signed PA Resident Form AND Waiver Request if you have lived in PA for 10 consecutive years. Fingerprinting is required (FBI report access code is 1KG6Y3).
- TB Test: Required to volunteer in Early Childhood classrooms.
- A copy of all clearances and TB test results must sent by U.S. mail, e-mail, or fax to Geraldine Carpenter at:
 - Mailing Address: Peabody Early Childhood Center, 515 N. Highland Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15206
 - E-mail: gcarpenter1@pghschools.org
 - Fax: (412) 665-0737
- Volunteer time is valued at a comparable hourly rate which is used as in-kind contribution to help the Program meet the mandated non-federal share match requirement for the Head Start/Early Head Start grant.
- All volunteers receive training and may be eligible to receive a non-monetary incentive for the family at the end of the school year (ex: tickets to a local venue or raffle prizes).

Early Childhood
Education Programs
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Parent Hotline:
412-529-HELP (4357)
discoverpps.org/capa