

STUDENTS: Job shadow opportunities needed

FROM A6

provides their students with information on when it should be completed during their high school career.

This year, there are updates for the job shadowing requirements. The information can be found on the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website, www.education.pa.gov. This includes a minimum of three separate job shadowing experiences lasting at least three hours each. They are to be completed in the career area that has been designated in the student's career portfolio.

Employers participating in the program will have business volunteers that will work with the student. The employee will be required to obtain school volunteer background clearances. The two school volunteer background clearances needed are the Pennsylvania State Police Background Check referred to as "PATCH" (Pennsylvania Access To Criminal History) and the Department of Human Services Child Abuse History Certification.

If an individual already has clearances that have been obtained in Pennsylvania, obtained within the past 60 months and obtained for either employment or volunteer purposes, then the requirement is already fulfilled. If the business volunteer does not have clearances, then they can go through the

process of obtaining the clearances.

The PATCH clearance is valid for five years and free for Volunteers Only. To obtain it:

- Go online to the PA State Police Website – www.psp.pa.gov

- Under the category PSP Services, select "Request A Criminal History Record"

- Click on the "PA Access to Criminal History (PATCH) Website"

- Complete the "Volunteer Only" form (Form SP 4-164A)

- 85% of the time, the certificates are returned immediately through the internet to the requestor

The Child Abuse History Certification is valid for five years with the cost waived one time within a five-year period for volunteers. To obtain it:

- Go online to the Department of Human Services Website – www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov

- Under the category Child Abuse Clearances, click on "Get More Details"

- Apply online by clicking "Child Welfare Information Solution" (CWIS)

- Receive immediate access to your results to view and print or the status to your results if not processed immediately.

If an individual has lived in Pennsylvania for at least 10 years, he or she also will need to sign a "Disclosure Statement Application for Volunteers," which affirms that they are seeking a volunteer



Job shadow opportunities are needed for local students. If you can help, contact Lynda Jaworski-Rapone, executive director of Lawrence County School-To-Work, Inc., at (724) 730-9828 or ljaworskirapone.school2work@gmail.com

position and not required to obtain a Federal Bureau of Investigation certificate. If they have not been a resident for at least years, an FBI certificate is required. There is a cost for the FBI clearance.

The phrase "It Takes A Village" rings true once more for what will need to occur for our youth to move from "School to Work." Why would this be important to each of us as members of our community? Whether you are a student,

parent, educator, post-secondary educator or business owner/leader, you play an important role in assisting our next generation of workers – everyone is a stakeholder that will benefit from this process.

Please consider being a facilitator for job shadows and get your volunteer clearances. If you already have the clearances, please consider being a business volunteer. Lawrence County School-To-Work, Inc. is compiling a list of employ-

ers to assist the school districts for the upcoming school year.

To have the name of your business added or if you need any assistance with the process, please contact Lynda Jaworski-Rapone, Executive Director Lawrence County School-To-Work, Inc. at (724) 730-9828 or ljaworskirapone.school2work@gmail.com

(Lynda Jaworski-Rapone is the executive director of Lawrence County School-To-Work.)