

# Newburyport Public Schools

Newburyport, Massachusetts

***A message from the Office of the Superintendent, Susan L. Viccaro:***

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to address concerns that have been expressed in regards to the request for fingerprinting of volunteers.

In January 2013, Governor Deval Patrick signed Chapter 459 of the Acts of 2012, "An Act Relative to Background Checks". This act requires all school district employees to be fingerprinted by 2016. In keeping with Newburyport's continued focus on safety, we are asking volunteers/parents to be fingerprinted in two instances:

- If you are going on a day or overnight field trip and will have direct and unmonitored contact with children;
- If you are a lunchroom volunteer and will be bringing children out to the playground.

Parents who volunteer in the classroom DO NOT need to be fingerprinted, as there is always another adult present.

MorphoTrust is the company that the state has contracted with to complete the fingerprinting. Currently, MorphoTrust is not scheduling any onsite fingerprinting as they cannot keep up with the demand. Newburyport Public Schools is currently on a wait list for an onsite visit. You will be notified when we receive a date/time.

We had originally suggested that volunteers have until Thanksgiving to get fingerprinted. Given the current demand, we may need to move that date to the first of the year.

Other important information you should know:

- Fingerprinting is done only once and does not need to be done again, unlike the state CORI checks that must be done every 3 years.
- The \$35 fee covers costs associated with the FBI and the Massachusetts State Police. There are no waivers for the fee.

I hope that this clarifies the District's requirements.

Sincerely,

***Susan L. Viccaro***  
Superintendent of Schools