

## What is a Volunteer?

A person who has direct contact with students. Direct contact is defined as the care, supervision, guidance, or control of children, or routine interactions with children. For purposes of **volunteers**, The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has stated that being responsible for the welfare of a child means acting in lieu of or on behalf of a parent. This means providing permanent or temporary care, supervision, training or control of child in lieu of parental care, supervision and control. The term includes any such person who has direct or regular contact with a child through any program, activity or service (i.e. public or private educational, athletic, or other pursuit in which children participate) sponsored by a school. The term includes, but is not limited: a youth camp or program; a recreational camp or program; a sports or athletic program; an outreach program; an enrichment program; and a troop, club or similar organization.

### Key Terms

- Direct Contact
- Provides care
- Supervision
- Guidance
- Control of the children
- Routine interaction with children
- Based on the volunteer's role, is his or her contact with children regular and ongoing and is it integral to his or her volunteer responsibilities?

Individuals visiting but not assisting a classroom or school for classroom parties, parades, American Education Week, Veterans' Day, mystery reading, and other activities are considered visitors, not volunteers.