

Harlem School District

PERSONNEL

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Fingerprints and Criminal Background Investigations

It is the policy of the Board that any finalist recommended for hire to a paid or volunteer position with the District involving regular unsupervised access to students in schools, as determined by the Superintendent, shall submit to a name-based and fingerprint criminal background investigation conducted by the appropriate law enforcement agency prior to consideration of the recommendation for employment or appointment by the Board.

Any requirement of an applicant to submit to a fingerprint background check shall be in compliance with the Volunteers for Children Act of 1998 and applicable federal regulations. If an applicant has any prior record of arrest or conviction by any local, state, or federal law enforcement agency for an offense other than a minor traffic violation, the facts must be reviewed by the Superintendent, who shall decide whether the applicant shall be declared eligible for appointment or employment (in a manner consistent with the expectations and standards set by the board). Arrests resolved without conviction shall not be considered in the hiring process unless the charges are pending.

The following applicants for employment, as a condition for employment, will be required, as a condition of any offer of employment, to authorize, in writing, a name-based and fingerprint criminal background investigation:

- A certified teacher seeking full- or part-time employment with the District;
- An educational support personnel employee seeking full- or part-time employment with the District;
- An employee of a person or firm holding a contract with the District, if the employee is assigned to the District;
- A volunteer assigned to work in the District, who has regular unsupervised access to students; and
- Substitute teachers.*

**The requirement to fingerprint non-licensed substitutes may be waived in whole or in part by the trustees, if the substitute has previous teaching or substitute teaching experience in an accredited public school in Montana prior to November 28, 2002.*

