

FLEETWOOD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
“SMILES” Program
(SENIOR MOTIVATORS IN LEARNING & EDUCATION SERVICES)
SENIOR VOLUNTEER TAX EXCHANGE PROGRAM

- Purpose:** To provide alternative methods of payment of real estate taxes for community senior citizens and to provide our school district with citizens' skills, time, and caring.
- Eligibility:** **The program is open to residents in financial need of residential property tax payment assistance who are 60 years of age or older, retired and cannot be currently employed. Reimbursement is contingent upon full year of residency and subsequent year payment of property taxes.**
- To Apply:** A *Senior Volunteer Application* form must be completed and sent to our district Business Office. Applicants must also complete and file two forms with the state (*Pennsylvania State Police “Request for Criminal Record Check” (Act 34)* and *Pennsylvania “Child Abuse History Clearance” (Act 151)*) and the district's *Volunteer Affirmation form* prior to volunteering. The fees associated with these filings are paid by the applicant. **Act 168 requires this to be done every 5 years.**
- Tracking:** A record of your volunteer hours must be kept and submitted to the department/building office for approval. Monthly records will be sent to the district Business Office by each building or department secretary. For every hour of volunteer service provided to our district (max 100 hours), \$5.99 per hour of credit will be set aside towards a rebate on the next fiscal year's property tax bill (max \$599.00). At the end of the district's fiscal year (end of June) the Business Office will calculate the dollars earned during that fiscal year and present it to the Board of School Directors for approval. A rebate check will then be issued to you in **September** as long as all of the **eligibility** requirements have been met.
- Location:** A list of areas of district operations in which applicants may volunteer their time in our schools in exchange for tax credit is provided. We will try to match the applicant's skills and preferences with our needs.