



Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale issued a very misleading report on Tuesday that linked our district to unqualified drivers. Please be assured that is simply not the case.

While DePasquale led his report with an emphasis on drivers who should not be driving due to criminal background results, many of his results from audits dating back to 2013 had nothing to do with ineligible drivers. In fact, less than 2% of his reported deficiencies across the state were due to ineligible drivers.

In the case of General McLane, the so called “deficiencies” are a result of interpretation of a guideline.

For many years, we have required all new employees, including bus drivers, to secure three clearances to enhance the safety of our schools: a Criminal Background check for the state of Pennsylvania, a Child Abuse background check and fingerprints that are run through the FBI database. During the period of our audit in question (2012 - 2015), the Pennsylvania Department of Education recommended that we have job applicants sign another form which indicates whether they have been arrested or are currently under investigation. Since that form was not required, we required background checks that were within a year of hire and our job application has them attest to statements identical to the ones on the recommended form, we did not require the form.

When Act 4 of 2016’s additional requirement was announced, which added the form in question as a requirement, we immediately complied with the new law. (Fun fact, since the audit, all applicants are now required to provide **SIX** forms of documentation for clearances.)

When the audit was done in 2016, they cited us for not having that recommended form signed. When we contested the finding and pointed out that the form was not required during the period of audit, the Pennsylvania Department of Education agreed with us; however, the auditor ignored that.

All of our drivers have background checks and not only are they qualified to drive for us, they do a great job at it! We take great pride in our drivers and appreciate the challenging work they do.

Protecting General McLane students has and will always be a top priority for the District. We are proud to have a very rigorous hiring process that align’s future employees with our core values, including safety. General McLane School District has and will continue to remain committed to providing a positive, safe and empowering learning environment for all students.