

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

July 2022



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
www.pspc.education.pa.gov



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Wolf, Governor

Professional Standards and Practices Commission
Shane F. Crosby, Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, gender identity or expression, AIDS or HIV status, or any other legally protected category. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with State Law including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and with Federal law, including Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies:

For Inquiries Concerning Nondiscrimination in Employment:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Equal Employment Opportunity Representative
Bureau of Human Resources
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-5446

For Inquiries Concerning Nondiscrimination in All Other Pennsylvania Department of Education Programs and Activities:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
School Services Unit Director
333 Market Street, 5th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 783-3750, Fax: (717) 783-6802

If you have any questions about this publication or for additional copies, contact:

Professional Standards and Practices Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice: (717) 787-6576, Fax: (717) 783-0734
www.pspc.education.pa.gov

All Media Requests/Inquiries: Contact the Office of Press & Communications at (717) 783-9802

Table of Contents

Letter From The Chairperson <i>Pro Tempore</i>	1
2021 Membership.....	2
Committee Structure.....	2
Calendar of Meetings for 2021.....	2
Mission Statement.....	3
Introduction.....	3
Disciplinary Authority.....	3
Grounds For Discipline.....	5
2021 Disciplinary Actions.....	7
Outreach.....	24
Available Resources.....	25

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON PRO TEMPORE

Dear Governor Wolf and Members of the General Assembly:

It is my pleasure to provide you with the Annual Report of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) for 2021. The Annual Report is designed to provide an overview of the PSPC's mission and operation, to identify major issues currently before the PSPC, and to report on the public disciplinary actions imposed in 2021.

Since its inception, the PSPC has worked arduously to safeguard the children of the commonwealth through the imposition of educator discipline. In furtherance of our adjudicatory duties, we continue to review and act upon educator discipline cases that are prosecuted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The number of reported cases has increased over the past few years, and the PSPC is working with PDE to find ways to ensure that this increase does not detract from an effective, fair, and efficient disciplinary process. A summary of the disciplinary actions taken in 2021 can be found in the body of this report.

While the disciplinary process consumes the majority of the PSPC's efforts, the PSPC strives to provide timely and pertinent advice to the State Board of Education (State Board) and PDE on issues related to the improvement of teacher preparation and certification. The PSPC also remains committed to augmenting our outreach efforts to school entities and educator preparation programs. These efforts are designed to inform the members of the education community about their individual responsibilities to the profession and to reduce the incidence of misconduct.

Finally, I would like to thank our executive director and legal counsel, Shane Crosby, and our legal office administrator, April Rivera, for their guidance and dedication.

Respectfully,



Myron Yoder, Chairperson Pro Tempore
Professional Standards and Practices Commission

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION 2021
MEMBERSHIP**

Myron Yoder, Chair *Pro Tempore*
Allentown School District
Teacher (retired)/Practices Chair

Michael D. Pawlik, Vice Chair *Pro Tempore*
East Lycoming School District
Administrator

Dr. Nicole Hill
Shippensburg University
Higher Education Administrator/Standards Chair

Dr. Robert Hollister
Eastern Lancaster County School District
Administrator

Dr. Eugene M. Dangelo
Mount Pleasant Area School District
Teacher (retired)

Christopher M. Gegaris
Tri-Valley School District
Administrator

Brandon Aukamp
Elizabethtown Area School District
Educational Specialist

Phyllis C. Comer
Woodland Hills School District
Teacher (retired)

Mark Anderson¹
Elizabethtown Area School District
Teacher

Dr. Stacey Marten
Hempfield School District
Teacher

Michael Davis
Muncy School District
Teacher

Michelle Duggan, Esquire
Public Member

Dr. Jonathan Peri, *ex officio*²
State Board of Education

Vacancies:

Classroom Teacher
Public Member (School Director)

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The PSPC continues to provide leadership to the educational community predominantly through the work of its two standing committees. Each commissioner sits on either the Practices Committee or the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee is charged with fulfilling the advisory functions imposed by the Educator Discipline Act (“Act”), while the Practices Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising the implementation of the Act and its concomitant bylaws and regulations.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2021

By law, the PSPC must meet at least five times each year. In practice, the full PSPC typically meets every other month on either the second or the third Monday of the month. Additionally, PSPC panels convene as necessary to hear immediate suspension cases, and PSPC committees may meet more frequently depending on their respective projects. Meeting dates and times are publicized, and the public is welcome to attend. Regular meetings of the PSPC for 2021 were scheduled as follows:

-
1. Resigned effective March 11, 2022
 2. Retired effective January 19, 2022

January 11, 2021

March 15, 2021

May 10, 2021

July 19, 2021

September 13, 2021

November 15, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

The PSPC is committed to providing leadership for improving the quality of education in the commonwealth by establishing high standards for preparation, certification, practice, and ethical conduct in the teaching profession.

INTRODUCTION

The PSPC was created by the General Assembly with the belief that educators, as members of a profession, should be self-governing. The PSPC is comprised of 13 voting members who broadly represent the education community in Pennsylvania. In addition, a member of the State Board sits ex officio as a non-voting member. Members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Senate. Under the Act, the membership shall consist of:

- Six classroom teachers;
- Three administrators, at least one of whom is a commissioned officer and one a principal;
- One administrator from an approved institution of higher learning in the commonwealth offering approved teacher education programs;
- Two members from the general public, one of whom is an elected public school director; and
- One educational specialist.

Under the Act, the General Assembly established the PSPC as the legal adjudicatory body in the commonwealth for administering educator discipline and overseeing the reinstatement of certificates surrendered, suspended, or revoked and ensuring that the disciplinary process is fair and efficient. In addition, the General Assembly invested the PSPC with a host of advisory functions to assist the State Board and PDE in achieving excellence within the education profession. These advisory functions include providing recommendations on the following: certification standards and requirements; standards for professional educator preparation programs; and effectiveness of professional educator preparation programs.

The Act also tasks the PSPC with adopting and maintaining a Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators (“code”). The code, which was first adopted in 1992, sets forth the standards of behavior that reflect the shared values of the educator community in Pennsylvania. Every educator in the commonwealth is expected to internalize and observe the standards of conduct espoused in the code. The code can be found in Chapter 235 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code or on the PSPC website: www.pspc.education.pa.gov.

Each year, the PSPC compiles data regarding the disciplinary actions it imposes. The PSPC provides this data to the governor, the General Assembly, the State Board, members of the education profession, other stakeholders, and the public.

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

PDE is responsible for the intake of complaints and for the investigation and prosecution of educator misconduct. PDE receives allegations of educator misconduct from various sources. Information regarding alleged

misconduct may come from Pennsylvania Justice Network (JNET) referrals,³ mandatory reports by school entities and educators,⁴ or members of the public. The Act delineates a very specific process for the receipt and investigation of complaints and the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings. If after investigation PDE determines discipline is warranted, PDE will file a Notice of Charges with the PSPC. Once a Notice of Charges is filed, in some cases the PSPC appoints a neutral hearing officer to conduct a hearing on its behalf and prepare a recommended decision. In other cases, the matter proceeds directly to the PSPC for adjudication. In all cases, the PSPC is the ultimate fact finder and adjudicator. The PSPC announces its decisions orally at its regularly scheduled public meetings. Written decisions are issued shortly thereafter. Decisions imposing public discipline are made public. Both the affected educator and PDE may appeal the PSPC's decision to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. For a detailed explanation of each step in the disciplinary process, please visit the PSPC website.

The PSPC's disciplinary authority extends to all educators. The term "educator" includes all individuals who are certificated as teachers, administrators, or educational specialists by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including individuals who hold private academic school certification. In addition to anyone who holds public or private academic school certification, the term "educator" includes two groups of non-certificated individuals who are included because of their employment in or with a school: charter or cyber charter school staff members and contracted educational provider staff members. These individuals fall under the PSPC's jurisdiction, because they provide direct educational services to students and would be required to hold a certificate if they worked in a traditional public school.

Professional discipline refers to action taken by the PSPC against an educator's certification or eligibility to work as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member as a result of misconduct. Discipline ordered by the PSPC is separate from any discipline that may be imposed by an employer. Discipline imposed by an employer only affects the employment relationship between the individual and the employer, whereas discipline ordered by the PSPC may affect the individual's ability to teach in any local school entity in Pennsylvania. The PSPC may impose discipline in addition to any disciplinary action imposed by an employer for the same misconduct or even in the absence of local discipline.

Under the Act, discipline includes the following:

- Private Reprimand: A private written admonishment;
- Public Reprimand: A public written admonishment;
- Suspension: The temporary termination of a certificate or employment eligibility for a fixed period, for an indefinite period, or until certain conditions are met;
- Revocation: The termination of a certificate or employment eligibility;

3. Pursuant to section 111.2 of the Public School Code of 1949, PDE is required to obtain and monitor public safety and criminal justice information, including, but not limited to, arrest and disposition information, for all educators and shall use such information for certification and discipline purposes. 24 P.S. § 1-111.2. PDE obtains and monitors public safety and criminal justice information through JNET. On September 18, 2013, JNET began automatically notifying via email PDE's Office of Chief Counsel whenever a significant event (e.g., an arrest, disposition, want, warrant, state parole violation, PennDOT change of address or death) occurs involving an educator.

4. Pursuant to section 9a of the Act (24 P.S. § 2070.9a), school entities are mandated to report educator misconduct to PDE under certain circumstances. A mandated school entity report is triggered if: an educator has been provided with notice of intent to dismiss or remove for cause; an educator is charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony offense; there are allegations that an educator engaged in sexual misconduct or sexual abuse or exploitation; there is reasonable cause to suspect that an educator has caused physical injury to a child or student as a result of negligence or malice; an educator has resigned, retired or otherwise separated from employment following allegations of misconduct; an educator is the subject of a child abuse report filed by the school entity; or the school entity knows an educator has been named as a perpetrator or as an individual responsible for injury or abuse in an indicated or founded report of child abuse. Section 9a also requires any educator with knowledge that another educator has engaged in conduct constituting sexual misconduct or sexual abuse or exploitation to file a report with PDE, his or her immediate supervisor and the chief school administrator.

A mandatory report is distinct from a complaint. If upon review, PDE determines discipline may be warranted, PDE will file a complaint and conduct an investigation.

- Surrender: The termination by consent of a certificate or employment eligibility; and
- Supplemental Sanctions: Private or public disciplinary sanctions that focus on remediation or restitution.

Educators who receive a private or public reprimand may continue to work as educators. Educators whose certificates or employment eligibility are surrendered, suspended, or revoked may not be employed by a school entity in any position that requires certification or that would require certification in a traditional public school unless the PSPC reinstates the certificate or employment eligibility. The PSPC retains authority to reinstate certificates or employment eligibility previously surrendered, suspended, or revoked.

GROUNDINGS FOR DISCIPLINE

While there is no definitive list of actions that will result in discipline by the PSPC, there are certain categories of conduct that may, or in some cases will, trigger professional discipline. On a macro level, misconduct under the Act can be characterized as either criminal or non-criminal. As explained in more detail below, the distinction between criminal and non-criminal misconduct rests with the discretion that the PSPC has in fashioning discipline.

Discipline for Criminal Offenses (24 P.S. § 2070.9b)

An educator can be disciplined by the PSPC on the sole basis that the educator has been convicted of certain crimes. In these cases, a hearing is generally not necessary, and the matter proceeds directly to the PSPC for adjudication once PDE has provided the PSPC with certified court documents evidencing the educator's conviction.

Section 9b of the Act (24 P.S. § 2070.9b) requires the PSPC to revoke the certificate and/or employment eligibility of any educator convicted of one of the crimes listed in section 111(e)(1)-(3) of the Public School Code of 1949, which include violent offenses, sex offenses, felony drug offenses, and similar offenses under the laws of other jurisdictions. The PSPC is also authorized to immediately suspend the certificate and/or employment eligibility of an educator charged with one of these offenses if the PSPC determines that the educator poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of students, or other persons in a school.

Section 9b of the Act also requires the PSPC to revoke the certificate and/or employment eligibility of any educator convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. The decision of whether a crime involves moral turpitude rests with the PSPC. In making that determination, the PSPC considers only the statutory definition of the crime juxtaposed against the PSPC's definition of moral turpitude. The PSPC does not consider the conduct underlying the criminal conviction. Generally, all crimes involving dishonesty, fraud or deception are crimes involving moral turpitude. A list of crimes previously determined by the PSPC to be crimes involving moral turpitude is available on the PSPC website.

Not all educators who are convicted of a crime will face revocation of their certification or employment eligibility. Only convictions for crimes involving moral turpitude and crimes listed in section 111(e)(1)-(3) of the Public School Code result in an automatic revocation under the Act. In all other cases, PDE may pursue discipline against an educator convicted of a crime, but any discipline would be based upon the educator's conduct rather than the mere existence of a conviction and the PSPC has discretion in imposing discipline.

Imposition of Discipline on Additional Grounds (Non-Criminal Grounds) (24 P.S. § 2070.9c)

It is not necessary that an educator be convicted of a crime to be disciplined by the PSPC. The Act gives the PSPC broad authority to discipline educators on non-criminal grounds that encompass a wide variety of unprofessional behaviors. In these cases, PDE must prove in a hearing that the educator engaged in misconduct, and the PSPC is free to impose any level of discipline, or no discipline, as deemed appropriate based upon the unique facts and circumstances of the case.

The Act authorizes the PSPC to discipline educators who are found guilty of immorality, incompetency, intemperance, cruelty, negligence, sexual misconduct, sexual abuse or exploitation (definitions of these terms can be found in section 1b of the Act and Ch. 237 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code), violations of the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators, violations of any provision of the Act of May 29, 1931 (P.L. 210, No. 126) (relating to improper or illegal use of certification status), failure to comply with duties under the

Act, including mandatory reporting duties, and actions taken to threaten, coerce or discriminate or otherwise retaliate against an individual who in good faith reports actual or suspected misconduct under the Act or against complainants, victims, witnesses, or other individuals participating or cooperating in proceedings under the Act.

The actual activities that form the basis for discipline may include conduct occurring outside of school hours and off school property. There is no requirement that the conduct be directly related to the performance of professional duties on school grounds. Generally, any conduct that sets a bad example or endangers students, violates the code or an educator's legal obligations, or otherwise calls into question an educator's fitness to fulfill his or her professional or ethical responsibilities may serve as a basis for discipline.

Imposition of Discipline on Founded Reports (24 P.S. § 2070.9d)

Similar to a conviction for a crime involving moral turpitude or a crime set forth in section 111(e)(1)-(3) of the Public School Code of 1949, a founded report of child abuse also mandates revocation.

Section 9d provides that the PSPC shall direct PDE to revoke the certificate and/or employment eligibility of any educator who is named as the perpetrator or as an individual responsible for injury or abuse in a founded report of child abuse even if the educator has not been convicted of a crime.

Reciprocal Discipline (24 P.S. § 2070.9e)

Pennsylvania participates in a database administered by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). The NASDTEC Educator Identification Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) is the national collection point for professional educator discipline actions taken by the fifty states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Department of Defense Educational Opportunity schools, Ontario, and Guam. Each jurisdiction submits all adverse actions taken against educators into the Clearinghouse and the information is shared with all participating jurisdictions. Prior to the issuance of any Pennsylvania certificate, PDE crosschecks the applicant against the Clearinghouse to ensure that no other jurisdiction has imposed discipline against the applicant. Similarly, PDE checks all disciplinary actions entered by other jurisdictions against its entire database monthly, which reveals whether any Pennsylvania certificate holders have been disciplined in another jurisdiction. Under the Act, the PSPC may impose identical or comparable discipline against a Pennsylvania educator if the discipline imposed by the other jurisdiction is for conduct that would be actionable in Pennsylvania, unless the educator can demonstrate certain legal reasons why the imposition of reciprocal discipline is unwarranted.

Reinstatement (24 P.S. § 2070.16)

The PSPC has the authority to reinstate certificates or employment eligibility surrendered, suspended, or revoked when to do so would be "just and proper." The PSPC considers several factors to determine if the educator is fit to return to teaching. The Act, however, permanently prohibits reinstatement if the educator's conduct involved sexual abuse or exploitation, or if the educator was convicted of a crime listed in section 111(e) of the Public School Code.

2021 DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Educators in Pennsylvania are nationally recognized, highly qualified, and exemplify the high ethical standards embodied in the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators. While the number of educator misconduct cases has risen steadily over the last several years, less than 1 percent of the educators in Pennsylvania are involved in the educator disciplinary process each year.

The following tables reflect the public disciplinary actions imposed during the 2021 calendar year. Decisions that resulted in private reprimands are not captured in the tables.

All adjudications of the PSPC are available online. In addition, all the information listed in the tables can be found online in the Notifications of Teaching Certificate Actions link on the PSPC website:

www.pspc.education.pa.gov.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
Adsit	Richard E., Jr.	Conviction: Sexual Assault, Sexual Intercourse without Consent (MT)	Revocation	02/17/2021	Mercer Area SD
Arigo	Paul	Allegations: Educator has driven under the influence of alcohol on more than one occasion	Public Reprimand	02/17/2021	Red Lion Area SD
Beckett	Michael	Allegations: Over a period of years, Educator made sexualized comments to students and used district resources to view inappropriate content in the school building	Suspension	08/24/2021	Eastern Lancaster County SD
Beecher	Dushawn L.	Conviction: Robbery	Revocation	08/24/2021	Steelton-Highspire SD
Benel	Colette M.	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	03/22/2021	
Benjamin	Andrea D.	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Black	Cole G.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault	Revocation	02/24/2021	Keystone Central SD
Blanford	Scott A.	Allegations: Educator engaged in	Suspension	12/15/2021	Springfield SD

5. An individual does not have to be employed in a school entity to be disciplined by the PSPC. The PSPC maintains jurisdiction over everyone who holds a certificate issued by PDE, regardless of their employment status.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		inappropriate communication with a student			
Brancato	Keith R.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with students and falsified his standard employment application	Suspension	10/08/2021	Highlands SD/Pine-Richland SD
Brenton	Richard H.	Allegations: Educator viewed pornography on the school's computer system and offered an undercover officer posing as a prostitute \$20.00 for oral sex	Public Reprimand	12/13/2021	Penn Manor SD
Brindisi	Melissa A.	Allegations: Educator engaged in professional misconduct with a student	Surrender	08/24/2021	Central Susquehanna IU 16
Buckwash	Anthony J.	Allegations: Educator was involved in a hit and run accident in 2012, and was convicted of DUI-1st Offense in 2013, and DUI-2nd Offense in 2014	Public Reprimand	10/08/2021	Coatesville Area SD
Buskell	Mark A.	Allegations: Educator smoked marijuana and a mixture of catnip and chamomile tea with students and had inappropriate physical contact with a student	Revocation	10/08/2021	Oxford Area SD
Carrigan	Jaime L.	Conviction: Theft by Deception	Revocation	08/24/2021	Philadelphia City SD
Chorba	Jaime R.	Charges: Sexual Abuse of Children,	Immediate suspension	08/24/2021	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Indecent Exposure, Open Lewdness			
Ciletti	Michael W., Jr.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate text and voice communications with an alleged 16-year-old minor who lived in Canada	Surrender	06/11/2021	Pittsburgh Public Schools
Cleary	Richard	Allegations: Educator was observed by students viewing images of nude or semi-nude women on a school computer in the classroom	Revocation	12/13/2021	Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13
Colelli	Richard	Allegations: Educator violated his employer's fair use/technology policy	Surrender	08/24/2021	Southern Lehigh SD
Comido	John J.	Conviction: False Reports to Law Enforcement Authorities	Revocation	08/24/2021	William Penn SD
Crafton	Angela M.	Conviction: Receiving Stolen Property	Revocation	10/08/2021	
Cressman	Rochelle L.	Conviction: Statutory Sexual Assault: 11 Years Older	Revocation	08/24/2021	Titusville Area SD
Crossan	Andrew	Allegations: Educator used his District-issued computer to access inappropriate content that was viewed by students	Revocation	08/26/2021	North Allegheny SD
Cushing	Daniel P.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with a student	Surrender	02/17/2021	Academy of Notre Dame de Namur
Czop-Bartley	Amy D.	Charges: Criminal Conspiracy, Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with	Immediate Suspension	08/24/2021	Bristol Township SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance, Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children			
Danko	Lianne	Allegations: Educator engaged in a sexual relationship with an eighteen-year-old student	Revocation	06/11/2021	Ringgold SD
Dare	Donald R.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Simple Assault after he held a knife to his 77-year-old mother's chest and threatened to kill her and himself	Revocation	02/24/2021	Warren County SD
DeGiacomo	Tyler J.	Allegations: Educator exhibited unprofessional behavior during an afterschool program	Public Supplemental Sanction	03/22/2021	Springfield Twp. SD
Delorenze	Antionette	Allegations: Educator provided inaccurate information relative to the hours she spent providing student services, resulting in overpayment	Public Reprimand	12/13/2022	Pittsburgh Public Schools/Highlands SD
Dettling	Meghan L.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol– 1st Offense, DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely – 1st Offense, Recklessly Endangering Another Person, and DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely – 2nd Offense, failed to report her arrest to her employer within 72 hours as required by law, and fell asleep	Suspension	02/24/2021	Carlynton SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		in her classroom during instructional time			
Dice	Zachary M.	Charges: Criminal Solicitation-Institutional Sexual Assault, Criminal Attempt-Institutional Sexual Assault, Institutional Sexual Assault, Obscene and Other Sexual Materials and Performances – Dissemination to Minors, Corruption of Minors	Surrender	08/24/2021	Uniontown Area SD
DiPuppo	Judith	Conviction: Unsworn Falsification to Authorities	Surrender	08/24/2021	Delone Catholic HS
Dotsey	Grant D.	Allegations: Educator engaged in improper private and personal communication with a student	Surrender	03/22/2021	Chichester SD
Eberhart	Andrew C.	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children, Criminal Solicitation-Sexual Abuse of Children, Corruption of Minors	Revocation	08/24/2021	Palmyra Area SD
Emery	Phyllis L.	Conviction: Involuntary Manslaughter	Revocation	10/08/2021	Elizabethtown Area SD
Evans	Dana V.	Conviction: Conspiracy to Violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, False Statements and Writings (GA)	Revocation	6/11/2021	Atlanta Public Schools
Feltenberger	Matthew	Allegations: Educator used inappropriate language with a student and submitted forged documents for	Public Reprimand	12/13/2021	Lancaster/Lebanon IU 13/York City SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		homebound services that he did not render			
Fidler	Gregg L.	Allegations: Educator engaged in behavior with no educational purpose and was under the influence of alcohol on school property	Suspension: 3/25/2015-9/25/2019	10/8/2021	Coatesville Area SD
Fisher	Brent J.	Allegations: Educator attempted to foster an improper relationship with a student, falsified scoring data for a district organization, and misrepresented his work hours leading to a financial gain	Revocation	2/24/2021	Cumberland Valley SD
Fisher	Scott T.	Allegations: Educator pleaded guilty to Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance by Person Not Registered after being found in his vehicle attempting to "shoot up" while in possession of multiple needles and controlled substances, including cocaine, and possessed controlled substances on school property	Suspension	10/8/2021	Lower Moreland Twp. SD
Fuller	John J.	Charges: Criminal Attempt-Homicide, Aggravated Assault	Immediate Suspension	4/28/2021	
Granat	Michael J.	Allegations: Educator drove a motor vehicle containing a child while under the influence of alcohol, and was, as a result, convicted of DUI: General	Public Reprimand	03/22/2021	Reading SD, Northern Tioga SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely-2 nd Offense			
Green	Matthew A.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate conduct	Surrender	10/8/2021	Governor Mifflin SD
Greth	Bradley	Allegations: Educator pleaded guilty to Criminal Use of a Communication Facility	Surrender	08/24/2021	Reading SD
Gricco	Joseph	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Surrender	10/08/2021	Archdiocese of Philadelphia – St. Thomas the Apostle School
Gruber	Ann	Conviction: Robbery, Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Forgery	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Gustafson	Jason	Allegations: Educator misrepresented hours worked performing parking lot supervisory duties for which he was paid	Public Reprimand	03/22/2021	Schuylkill Valley SD York City SD
Hacker	Martin T.	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children	Surrender	12/13/2021	
Hahn	Eric	Allegations: Educator engaged in unprofessional communication with a student	Surrender	06/11/2021	Bangor Area SD
Haines	Kristie A.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI-2nd Offense and failed to adequately comply with special education directives	Public Reprimand	12/13/2021	Upper Darby SD/William Penn SD
Hart	Kenneth C.	Conviction: False Reports to Law Enforcement Authorities, Tampering with or Fabricating Physical	Revocation	08/24/2021	Monroe Career & Technical Institute

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Evidence, Unsworn Falsification to Authorities			
Hartman	Seth C.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors, Aggravated Assault	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Hoats	Gregory M.	Conviction: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Revocation	04/16/2021	Pathways Community Services, LLC
Hopkins	George J.	Conviction: Indecent Assault	Revocation	06/11/2021	
Jackson	Caryn	Allegations: Educator engaged in conduct that compromised the reliability of PSSA testing results	Suspension: January 12, 2021-January 12, 2023	2/12/2021	Chester Community Charter School
Jordan	Tony A.	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	6/29/2021	Perkiomen Valley SD
Kashuba-Montelius	Diane	Conviction: Medicaid Fraud, Forgery, Theft by Deception	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Keene	Katie L.	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Theft from a Motor Vehicle	Revocation	08/24/2021	Northern Tioga SD
Keiser	Chad T.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	02/17/2021	Red Lion Area SD
King	James V.	Allegations: Educator inappropriately handled and disciplined a 16-year-old special needs student	Revocation	06/11/2021	Towanda Area SD
Klass	Bryan	Allegations: Educator possessed alcohol on school property, played a pornographic video on his personal cell phone during class, which was viewed by at least one student,	Revocation	12/13/2021	Catasauqua Area SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		and drove under the influence			
Kohlhepp	Gregg A.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate contact with a student	Revocation	08/24/2021	Bellefonte Area SD
Kreider	Wendy	Allegations: Educator engaged in multiple improper physical interactions with students	Public Reprimand	12/13/2021	West Shore Area SD
Lassahn	Daniel F.	Conviction: Sexual Offense in the Fourth Degree – Sexual Contact without Consent, Possession of Visual Representation of Child Under 16 Engaged in Certain Sexual Acts (MD)	Revocation	02/17/2021	
Lenkowski	Christopher L.	Conviction: Robbery (PA), Robbery (NH)	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Leon	Dean E.	Charges: Attempt to Lure or Entice a Child by Various Means, Endanger Welfare Child-Sexual Conduct, Endangering Welfare of Child-Possession of Child Pornography, Obscene Material to Minor-Sell/Distribute/Rent/Exhibit, Criminal Sexual Contact, and Endangering-Permit Child to Engage in Pornography (NJ)	Immediate Suspension	06/11/2021	
Levin	Craig A.	Charges: Coercion and Enticement- Use of an Interstate Commerce Facility to Entice a Minor to	Immediate Suspension	6/29/2021	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Engage in Sexual Activity.			
Maciel	Carlos	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol – 1st offense, DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol – 2nd offense and DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely – 3rd offense	Suspension	12/13/2021	
Macsisak	Matthew J.	Charges: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Maginn	Kevin J.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Attempt-Promoting Prostitution (NJ)	Surrender	06/11/2021	Lower Moreland Twp SD
Mancini	Gregory S.	Charges: Receipt of Material Depicting the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Possession of Material Depicting the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	Immediate Suspension	6/29/2021	
Magulick	Leo	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with students	Surrender	08/24/2021	Northern Cambria SD
Maranuk	Patrick M.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	10/8/2021	Career Institute of Technology
Marfia	Vincent P.	Charges: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Incest, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault	Immediate Suspension	06/11/2021	Gettysburg Area SD
Marszalek	Lisa A.	Conviction: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with	Revocation	06/11/2021	West Shore SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance			
Matz	Joshua D.	Allegations: Educator used his school computer to access pornographic websites during the school day	Surrender	06/11/2021	Reading SD
McCaffrey	William	Charges: Sexual Abuse of Children	Surrender	03/22/2021	School Lane Charter School
McDanel	Patrick J.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Purchase/Receipt of a Controlled Substance by an Unauthorized Person, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia after being found in possession of a large quantity of drugs and cash during a traffic stop, and used his school-issued cell phone in furtherance of illegal drug activities	Revocation	02/24/2021	Beaver Area SD
Mertz	Todd A.	Charges: Criminal Attempt and Criminal Solicitation to commit Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Statutory Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Migliore	Edward M.	Allegations: Educator operated a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol twice, resulting in a conviction for DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol-2 nd Offense, and brought alcohol to school and exhibited signs of	Suspension	10/8/2021	Quakertown Community SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		intoxication in the classroom			
Morales	Luis A.	Charges: Indecent Assault, Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	12/21/2021	Pheonixville Area SD
Morris	Walter A.	Conviction: Stalking	Revocation	10/8/2021	Philadelphia SD
Moser	Harold J.	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children, Indecent Exposure, Indecent Assault	Revocation	08/24/2021	
Moyer	Jason	Charges: Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	Central Bucks SD
Murray	Patrick R.	Allegations: Educator engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a student	Surrender	03/22/2021	Wallingford-Swarthmore SD
Newcomb	Mary C.	Allegations: Educator sold Oxycodone pills to a confidential informant	Revocation	10/08/2021	
Nielsen	Elizabeth G.	Allegations: Educator was under the influence of alcohol on school property	Suspension	10/08/2021	Central Dauphin SD
Nieman	Brad G.	Conviction: Sexual Assault in the Third Degree (WV)	Surrender	06/11/2021	Brooke County Schools (WV)
Noll	Rodney B.	Conviction: Aggravated assault	Revocation	06/11/2021	
Ordonez	Victor M.	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children	Revocation	06/11/2021	Harrisburg City SD
Patterson	Stephanie	Conviction: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Surrender	03/22/2021	Philadelphia SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
Persing	Steven	Allegations: Educator permitted a student to participate in a physical education activity without proper equipment resulting in injury to the student	Public Reprimand	01/27/2021	North Clarion County SD
Philips	Robb	Conviction: Bribery of Public Officials and Witnesses	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Presogna	Joseph	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition	Revocation	02/17/2021	
Race	Kimberly	Conviction: Statutory Sexual Assault – 11 years older	Revocation	04/16/2021	Catasauqua Area SD
Ricketts	Matthew J.	Conviction: Indecent Assault	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Ritko	Kevin S.	Conviction: Aggravated Indecent Assault	Revocation	02/17/2021	
Robbins	James M.	Charges: Luring a Child into a Motor Vehicle or Structure	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Roberts	Whitney P.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault	Revocation	04/16/2021	Towanda Area SD
Rodriguez	Silverio M., III	Allegations: Educator has driven under the influence of alcohol on more than one occasion	Public Reprimand	06/11/2021	Bethlehem-Center SD
Rosato	Robert T.	Allegations: Educator had inappropriate communications with students	Surrender	02/17/2021	Methacton SD
Royal	Marena V.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol – 1st Offense and DUI: General Impairment/Incapable	Public Reprimand	08/24/2021	The Summit Academy

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		of Driving Safely –2nd Offense			
Ruszkay	Lisa	Allegations: Educator engaged in conduct that compromised the reliability of PSSA testing results.	Suspension: January 12, 2021-January 12, 2023	02/12/2021	Chester Community Charter School
Ryan	Kelly	Allegations: Educator engaged in conduct that compromised the reliability of PSSA testing results.	Suspension: January 12, 2021-January 12, 2023	02/12/2021	Chester Community Charter School
Savage	Derrick L.	Allegations: Educator engaged in improper interactions with a student	Surrender	08/24/2021	Philadelphia SD
Schechterly	Michael E.	Charges: Unlawful Contact with Minor, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Scipioni	Luke T.	Allegations: Educator engaged in boundary violations with a former student	Suspension: August 15, 2014-August 15, 2016	12/13/2021	Cornwall-Lebanon SD
Seider	Christopher	Allegations: Educator attempted to forge an improper relationship with one or more students	Surrender	08/24/2021	Pennridge SD
Seitz	Stephen D.	Conviction: Indecent Assault	Revocation	12/13/2021	York City SD
Sherbin	Donna	Conviction: Aggravated Assault	Revocation	02/17/2021	
Sines	Robert L.	Charges: Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Institutional Sexual Assault	Immediate Suspension	10/08/2021	HOPE for Hyndman CS
Spera	Marc V.	Conviction: Unlawful Contact with Minor,	Surrender	10/8/2021	Admiral Farragut Academy (FL)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse			
Stanley	Kenneth F.	Allegations: Educator engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a minor female student and had inappropriate communications with two other minor female students, and provided false information on an employment application	Revocation	02/24/2021	Wilson Area SD/Lehigh Valley Christian HS
Stanton	Mary Ellen	Allegations: Educator submitted individualized education programs that were inaccurate or fraudulent	Public Reprimand	10/8/2021	Scranton Area SD/Carbondale Area SD
Sterner	Timothy M.	Conviction: Solicitation-Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Indecent Exposure, Obscene and Other Sexual Materials and Performances, Endangering the Welfare of Children	Revocation	08/24/2021	Lancaster SD
Stevens	Christopher S.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Stewart	Jill M.	Charges: Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Stewart	Kimberly	Allegations: Educator engaged in conduct that compromised the reliability of PSSA testing results	Suspension: January 12, 2021-January 12, 2023	01/12/2021	Chester Community Charter School
Stonebraker	William J.	Charges: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Unlawful Contact with Minor,	Immediate Suspension	06/11/2021	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		Aggravated Indecent Assault, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Exposure, Indecent Assault			
Strachan	Louis D.	Conviction: Theft by Deception, Medicaid Fraud, Forgery, Tampering with Public Records or Information	Revocation	01/15/2021	West Philadelphia Achievement Charter Elementary School
Stuber	Alice J.	Allegations: Educator engaged in unprofessional behavior in the classroom	Public Reprimand	08/24/2021	Allentown City SD
Thomas	Janeen M.	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Identity Theft, Access Device Fraud, Theft of Services	Revocation	04/16/2021	
Thompson (Lemons)	Nicole	Allegations: Educator engaged in conduct that compromised the reliability of PSSA testing results	Suspension: January 12, 2021-January 12, 2023	02/12/2021	Chester Community Charter School
Treece	Matthew	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	11/5/2021	
Vagnoni	Jessica	Allegations: Educator engaged in improper behaviors in the classroom	Public Reprimand	08/24/2021	Philadelphia SD
Vanyo	Andrew J.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with a student	Suspension	06/11/2021	Conneaut SD
Vattelana	Derek S.	Allegations: Educator pleaded guilty to Possession of an Instrument of Crime	Surrender	03/22/2021	Garnet Valley SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		after he exposed his penis and began masturbating during a video call with a former student			
Venezia	Suzanne R.	Allegations: Educator drove under the influence of alcohol and was under the influence during the workday	Suspension	03/22/2021	Chartiers Valley SD
Von Borsig	Kara M.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI after driving with a .358% blood alcohol content while she was five to six months pregnant and her one-year-old child was with her in the car	Suspension	12/13/2021	Vision Academy Charter School
Walsh	Nicole L.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	08/24/2021	Philadelphia SD
Wareham	Robert	Charges: Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault	Immediate Suspension	4/28/2021	Tuscarora SD
Washington	Garnell	Allegations: Educator made inappropriate comments to students and students viewed an inappropriate photo on Educator's cellular phone	Revocation	10/08/2021	Coatesville Area SD/Chester County IU 24
Weaver	Jovan	Conviction: Homicide by Vehicle, Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence	Revocation	12/13/2021	Mastery Charter Schools
Weaver	William	Allegations: Educator failed to investigate and report allegations of sexual misconduct and was, as a result, criminally charged with Failure to Report	Surrender	03/22/2021	Clearfield County Career and Technology Center

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) ⁵
		or Refer and Disorderly Conduct			
Whiteman	Denise M.	Allegations: Educator possessed and consumed alcohol on school grounds on more than one occasion, failed to comply with Act 24 of 2011, and was convicted of Recklessly Endangering Another Person	Surrender	10/08/2021	Otto-Eldred School District
Zimmerman	David C.	Allegations: On two occasions, while at school and during instructional hours, Educator was under the influence of alcohol	Surrender	08/24/2021	Conewago Valley SD

Reinstatement (24 P.S. § 2070.16)

In 2021, the PSPC considered four (4) requests for reinstatement filed by educators whose certificates were previously suspended, surrendered, or revoked. Dispositions are reflected in the following table.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE
Falcone	Daniel	Granted (w/conditions)	06/11/2021
Griffin	Antoinette	Granted	08/11/2021
Jackson	Eric F.	Granted	04/20/2021
Martini	Sarah	Granted	04/20/2021

OUTREACH

The PSPC is committed to informing the profession and the public of the ethical and professional parameters that should govern the behavior of all educators. To that end, the PSPC has developed workshops that are designed to familiarize participants with the PSPC, the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators, the educator discipline system, mandatory reporting, appropriate student-teacher boundaries, professional conduct, and other relevant topics. Throughout 2021, PSPC staff provided outreach to teachers, administrators, students in teacher preparation programs, human resource professionals, and other stakeholders. In addition, thousands of educators and school staff members have successfully completed the

PSPC’s three-hour Act 126 online course (see below under “Available Resources”), which was released in 2017. The PSPC welcomes questions and requests for workshops or other assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Information about the PSPC and the educator discipline system, including adjudications, is available online at www.pspc.education.pa.gov.

Ethics Toolkit

In collaboration with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), the PSPC created an online resource on professional ethics for teacher preparation programs and other users under the leadership of Dr. Oliver Dreon, Millersville University. The “Ethics Toolkit” is structured into eight modules designed to provide curricular resources for teacher preparation programs to inform pre-service teacher candidates throughout the commonwealth on issues related to educational ethics and certification. The modules include:

- The Ethical Teacher
- Private & Professional Lives
- Relationships with Students
- The Connected Teacher
- Teaching in a Diverse Society
- Improper Personal or Financial Gain
- The Ethical Colleague
- Fostering an Ethical School Climate

While the toolkit was designed initially for use with teacher preparation programs, the modules can be used by school entities or other educational stakeholders as a resource for instruction on ethical decision-making by educators in Pennsylvania. The Ethics Toolkit can be found online: www.pspc.education.pa.gov/ethics-toolkit

ACT 126 Online Course

Act 126 of 2012 (P.L. 1084, No. 126 Cl. 24 Session of 2012), amended the Public School Code of 1949 to mandate that all school entities (public schools, charter schools, cyber charter schools, private schools, nonpublic schools, intermediate units, and area vocational-technical schools) and independent contractors of school entities provide certain training to all employees, including contracted substitute teachers, who have direct contact with children.

The PSPC has developed a three-hour, four-module online course that partially satisfies the Act 126 training requirements as they relate to the Educator Discipline Act, the recognition and reporting of sexual misconduct, and appropriate student-teacher relationships. The course, titled “Professional Ethics and the Educator Discipline Act,” consists of the following four modules:

- Module 1: Overview of the Educator Discipline System;
- Module 2: Establishing and Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries;
- Module 3: Sexual Misconduct; and
- Module 4: Protecting Students and Mandatory Reporting.

The course is available on the SAS Portal and the PSPC website free of charge. Participants receive Act 48 credit upon completion.

Publications

The following publications are available in hard copy and electronically:

- Educator Discipline Act (24 P.S. § 2070.1a *et seq.*)
- Chapter 233-Bylaws—Statement of Policy
- Chapter 235-Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators
- Chapter 237-Definitions of Statutory Terms
- Chapter 238-Pennsylvania Model Code of Ethics for Educators-Statement of Policy
- Fact Sheet-A fact sheet detailing the PSPC, its mission and the educator discipline system
- Memo re: Non-Certified Educator Designation
- Registration and Application Instructions for Non-Certified Educators
- Roles and Responsibilities of Non-Certified Educators
- Recognizing and Reporting Sexual Misconduct
- The Ethical Educator and Professional Practices
- Why, When and How Do I Report Educator Misconduct?
- Acceptance of Filings by Email
- Consent to Electronic Service
- Standing Practice Order

To obtain copies, please visit the PSPC website or submit your request to:

Professional Standards and Practices Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
shcrosby@pa.gov

Telephone: 717-787-6576 TTY: 717-783-8445 Fax: 717-783-0734