

**PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
AND
PRACTICES
COMMISSION**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2015**



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Wolf, Governor

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

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

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 2015. 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 2015.

Our specific goals for 2015 included:

- continued focus on outreach and prevention efforts with particular emphasis on ensuring statewide implementation of the amendments to the Educator Discipline Act;
- provide advice to the State Board of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Education on issues related to teacher preparation and certification;
- redesign the website;
- finalize Act 126 eLearning course;
- promulgate amendments to 22 Pa. Code, Chapter 233, Bylaws; and
- initiate discussions about developing program guidelines for ethics and professional practice in teacher preparation programs.

The Commission remains committed to augmenting our outreach efforts to school entities and teacher preparation programs. These efforts are designed to inform the members of the educational community about their individual responsibilities to the profession and to reduce the incidence of misconduct.

In furtherance of our adjudicatory duties, we continue to review and take action upon educator disciplinary cases that are prosecuted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The number of cases has increased dramatically over the past few years and the Commission is working with the Department to find ways to ensure that this upsurge does not detract from an effective, fair and efficient disciplinary process. A summary of the disciplinary actions taken in 2015 can be found in the body of this report.

Since its inception, the commissioners serving on the PSPC have worked arduously to safeguard the children of the Commonwealth through the imposition of educator discipline. While the disciplinary process consumes the majority of the PSPC's efforts, the PSPC also strives to provide timely and pertinent advice to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education on issues related to the improvement of teacher preparation and certification.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the PSPC staff, Shane Crosby, Carolyn Angelo and Suzanne Markowicz, for their guidance and dedication.

Respectfully,

Gilbert R. Griffiths, D.Ed.
Chairperson, Professional Standards and Practices Commission

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION 2015
MEMBERSHIP**

Gilbert R. Griffiths, Chair
Wilkes University
Administrator (retired)

James Gilhooley, Standards Chair
Keystone College
Administrator

George P. Drake, Jr.
West Chester University
H.E. Administrator

Ryan M. Devlin
Brockway Area S.D.
Teacher

Myron Yoder, Practices Chair
Allentown S.D.
Teacher

Constance Henry
Cumberland Valley S.D.
Principal

Meghan L. Nese
Burrell S.D.
Teacher

Phyllis C. Comer
Woodland Hills S.D.
Teacher (retired)

Eugene M. Dangelo
Mount Pleasant Area S.D.
Teacher (retired)

Lisa A. Barbour
Fox Chapel Area S.D.
Teacher

Elizabeth Brewer
Warrior Run S.D.
Educational Specialist

*Thomas J. Baker**
Public Member

David W. Shutter
Public Member

James E. Grandon, Jr., ex officio
State Board of Education

**resigned effective January, 2015*

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

Self-governance is the hallmark of any profession. For many years, the education profession in Pennsylvania sought the right and responsibility of policing its own ranks. With the enactment of Act 71 in December 1989, the education profession achieved its goal when the General Assembly fashioned a new commission. The newly fashioned PSPC replaced a prior commission, which served predominantly as an advisory board to the State Board of Education. Under Act 71, the PSPC was reconfigured into a teacher majority commission that, for the first time, was empowered with significant authority for affecting education in the commonwealth. On December 20, 2000, Act 123 was signed into law, amending Act 71. Act 123, known as the Professional Educator Discipline Act, expanded the PSPC's jurisdiction, clarified discipline procedures, provided for reciprocal discipline and broadened reporting requirements. The Act was further amended by Act 120 of 2013, which went into effect on February 18, 2014, and changed the name of the statute to the "Educator Discipline Act" from the "Professional Educator Discipline Act". The most significant recent amendments are summarized on page 9.

The PSPC is composed of 13 voting members who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Senate. Under the Educator Discipline Act ("Act"), the composition of the 13 voting members is as follows:

- six classroom teachers, with not more than one from a school entity other than a public school;
- three administrators from a school entity, at least one of whom is a commissioned officer and one a principal with not more than one from a school entity other than a public school;
- 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.

In addition, a member of the State Board of Education sits *ex officio* as a non-voting member.

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 or employment eligibility 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 of Education, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of

Education (PDE), in achieving excellence within the educational 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.

Over the past few years the PSPC, in its advisory role, has provided input to the State Board and PDE on numerous issues, including: revisions to Chapter 49 and other chapters of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code; the development of the PDE's Standards, Policies and Procedures for State Approval of Certification Programs and for the Certification of Professional Educators for the Public Schools in Pennsylvania; Interstate New Teacher Assessment Support Consortium Standards; Alternative Certificate Programs; School University Partnerships; Standards for the Beginning Teacher; and cogency requests for new certificates.

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CONDUCT FOR EDUCATORS

One of the first tasks accomplished by the PSPC under Act 71 was the creation of Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators (Code).

The Code, which was adopted in 1992, was the culmination of many months of collaborative work by the commissioners and representatives of the statewide educational associations. The Code is designed to detail the standards of behavior that reflect the values of the educator community. Every educator in the commonwealth is expected to internalize and observe the standards of conduct espoused in the Code. The Code also serves as a tool for improving the quality of education by establishing clearly defined ethical standards for the teaching profession. The Code can be found in Chapter 235 of Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code or on the PSPC's website:

www.pspc.education.pa.gov.

It is well-established that educators have a duty to act as role models and a duty to serve as fiduciaries to students. These two principles form the foundation for our expectations of educators, both inside and outside the classroom. Specifically, educators are expected to always act in the best interest of students and also expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the profession at large and as an example to students.

In addition to detailing the general principles that should guide the educational practitioner, the Code delineates specific behaviors that are prescribed and proscribed. Specifically, educators are expected to:

- abide by all pertinent laws and regulations;
- be adequately prepared and properly certified in their areas of assignment;
- maintain high levels of competency;
- exhibit respectful and equitable treatment towards fellow educators, parents and students;
- accept the value of diversity of educational practices;
- exhibit professional communication skills;

- maintain confidentiality within the workplace; and
- protect students from conditions that are threatening or harmful.

Similarly, educators are prohibited from:

- engaging in illegal conduct;
- accepting employment or encouraging employment in an area when not properly certified;
- discriminating on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, culture, religion, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, age, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, disability or vocational interest;
- interfering with a student's or colleague's exercise of political/civil rights or responsibilities;
- accepting gratuities, gifts or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment;
- exploiting a professional relationship;
- misrepresenting student or colleague evaluations;
- misrepresenting subject matter or curriculum;
- sexually harassing students or colleagues;
- engaging in relationships of a sexual nature with students;
- withholding evidence from authorities concerning violations of the Code;
- denying or impeding a colleague in the exercise or enjoyment of a professional right or privilege;
- using coercive means to influence professional decisions of colleagues; and
- threatening, coercing or discriminating against a colleague who, in good faith, reports or discloses actual or suspected violations of laws, regulations or standards.

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

Under the Act as amended effective in 2014, the PSPC has jurisdiction to impose discipline against educators who are guilty of professional misconduct. The term "educator" includes all individuals who hold a private academic or public school certificate issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including teachers, administrators and educational specialists. In addition, all charter or cyber charter school staff members, who serve in positions for which certification would be required in a traditional public school, and all contracted educational provider staff members, who provide direct educational services to students in positions for which certification would be required in a traditional public school, fall within the PSPC's jurisdiction.

Discipline refers to action taken by the PSPC against an educator's certification or eligibility to work as a charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member. The PSPC may impose private reprimands, public reprimands, suspensions or revocations as disciplinary measures for misconduct. The PSPC may also accept certificates or employment eligibility surrendered by an educator and may include certain conditions with sanctions as well as impose fees, fines, or costs. The PSPC also retains authority to reinstate certificates or employment eligibility previously surrendered, suspended or revoked.

**EDUCATOR DISCIPLINE AS COMPARED TO LOCAL
EMPLOYMENT ACTION AND ADVERSE ACTION
UNDER THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW**

Discipline imposed by the PSPC against an educator's certificate or employment eligibility should be distinguished from employment action taken by a school entity. The misconduct of a school entity employee may result in the suspension, dismissal or other sanction of the employee from the employing local educational entity. Such action, however, only affects the employment relationship between the individual and the employer.

In contrast, discipline against an individual's educator certification or employment eligibility may affect the individual's ability to teach in any local school entity across Pennsylvania as well as in a school entity in our sister states as described in the Reciprocal Discipline section found below.

Similarly, the reporting, investigation and prosecution of allegations of child abuse under the Child Protective Services Law is distinct from reporting, investigation and prosecution under the Educator Discipline Act. Certainly, some misconduct may be grounds for child abuse as well as educator misconduct; however, there may be conduct by an educator that constitutes grounds for discipline under the Act that would not be a basis for a finding of child abuse. Accordingly, the mandatory duty to report to either PDE under the Educator Discipline Act or to ChildLine under the Child Protective Services Law must be separately fulfilled.

GROUND FOR DISCIPLINE

The Act authorizes the PSPC to discipline educators who are found guilty of immorality, incompetency, intemperance, cruelty, negligence, sexual misconduct, sexual abuse or exploitation, 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.

Further, the PSPC is required to revoke the certificate and/or employment eligibility of any educator who is convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude or a crime listed in Sections 111(e)(1)–(3) of the Public School Code of 1949. Section 111(e)(3) includes crimes from another jurisdiction that are similar in nature to the Pennsylvania crimes listed in Sections 111(e)(1) and (2). The PSPC determines on a case-by-case basis if a crime involves moral turpitude. The PSPC may immediately suspend the certificate and/or employment eligibility of an educator charged with a crime listed in Section 111(e) if the PSPC finds that the educator poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of students or others in the schools of this commonwealth. In addition, an educator who is convicted of a Section 111(e) crime is permanently barred from school employment and the PSPC is permanently barred from reinstating the educator's certification and/or employment eligibility. Crimes listed in Sections 111(e)(1)-(3) can be found in Appendix A. Appendix A also includes a list of crimes the PSPC has previously found to involve moral turpitude.

Under the amendments to the Act effective in 2014, a founded report of child abuse also mandates revocation.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

PDE is responsible for the intake of complaints and for the investigation and prosecution of educator misconduct. PDE receives allegations of misconduct by virtue of the filing of a verified complaint by any interested party or by submission of a mandatory report by a school entity or an educator. Complaint and mandatory report forms are available on the PSPC's website:

www.pspc.education.pa.gov/educatorcomplaintform

www.pspc.education.pa.gov/mandatoryreport

The Act delineates a very specific process for the receipt and investigation of complaints as well as the commencement of formal disciplinary proceedings. If after investigation PDE determines that the allegations rise to the level of actionable misconduct, it will file with the PSPC a Notice of Charges against the educator.

Once a Notice of Charges is filed and served on the educator, the PSPC is responsible for ensuring that any adjudication it may render in the case is the result of a fair and efficient administrative proceeding. To this end, the PSPC employs trained hearing officers to conduct hearings on its behalf and recommend disciplinary action, where applicable. In some cases, however, 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 and are available on the PSPC's website. Both the affected educator and PDE have the opportunity to appeal the PSPC's decision to Commonwealth Court.

RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

Pennsylvania participates with its sister states in a Clearinghouse administered by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), which shares all discipline actions nationwide. Each state, as well as several Canadian provinces, submits all adverse actions taken against educators for misconduct into the Clearinghouse. Prior to the issuance of any Pennsylvania certification, 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 on a monthly basis, which reveals whether any Pennsylvania certificate holders or otherwise eligible educators have been disciplined in another state. Under the Act, the PSPC may impose reciprocal comparable discipline against a Pennsylvania educator if the discipline imposed by the other jurisdiction is for conduct that would be actionable in Pennsylvania.

REINSTATEMENT PROCEEDINGS

Any educator whose certificate or employment eligibility has been suspended, revoked or surrendered may apply to the PSPC for reinstatement. Pursuant to the Act, the PSPC shall authorize reinstatement when it is "just and proper" to do so. In determining whether reinstatement is just and proper, the PSPC will consider the nature of the conduct that resulted in discipline, other past conduct, the applicant's current attitude towards the past conduct, rehabilitative efforts and letters in support of, or opposition to, reinstatement. If a revocation, suspension or surrender was the result of

conduct involving sexual abuse or exploitation, the PSPC is prohibited from reinstating the certificate. In the event that the basis for the original discipline was the conviction of a crime listed in Section 111(e) of the Public School Code of 1949, the PSPC also may not reinstate the certificate.

AMENDMENTS TO THE EDUCATOR DISCIPLINE ACT

The PSPC worked with its stakeholders over many years to develop amendments to the Act with the goal of enhancing the safety and welfare of students and other individuals in the schools of the commonwealth. In December 2013, Governor Corbett signed SB 34 into law, which significantly amended the Act. The most significant amendments, which were effective on February 18, 2014, include:

- the expansion of the PSPC’s jurisdiction to include private academic certificate holders and contractors providing direct educational services to students in positions that would require certification in a traditional public school;
- the elimination of the statute of limitation for the filing of a complaint against an educator;
- the inclusion of “**sexual misconduct**” as an independent basis for discipline, which encompasses any act directed toward a child or student that is intended to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the child or student;
- an expansion of the mandatory reporting duties of all chief school administrators;
- the imposition of a mandatory duty on all educators to report sexual misconduct and sexual abuse or exploitation; and
- a prohibition on confidentiality or other agreements that would interfere with mandatory reporting or other obligations under the Act.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND MANDATORY REPORTING

While the amendments to the Act reflected a myriad of changes to the existing law, one of the most significant enhancements relates to sexual misconduct and mandatory reporting. Sexual misconduct reflects the most egregious breach of an educator’s fiduciary duty to students. With the amendments, the PSPC wanted to strengthen its warrant to the public that the profession will not tolerate sexual misconduct. To that end, the PSPC provided a clear definition of what the term means within the context of an educational setting and established a mandatory duty to report sexual misconduct for all educators, not just chief school administrators, as in previous iterations of the Act.

Sexual misconduct is now broadly defined to capture what has become known as “grooming” behaviors and those breaches of the appropriate student-teacher boundary that are intended to lead to a romantic or sexual relationship with a student. While the term includes all forms of sexual contact, it also includes non-sexual behaviors that may lead to sexual contact. In addition, while sexual misconduct may involve behavior that is criminal in nature, the term also captures conduct that, although not illegal, is unacceptable between an educator and a student.

The Act sets forth the following definition:

“Sexual misconduct” shall mean any act, including, but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written or electronic communication or physical activity, directed toward or with a child or a student regardless

of the age of the child or student that is designed to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the child or student. Such prohibited acts include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) sexual or romantic invitations;
- (2) dating or soliciting dates;
- (3) engaging in sexualized or romantic dialogue;
- (4) making sexually suggestive comments;
- (5) self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic or erotic nature; or
- (6) any sexual, indecent, romantic or erotic contact with the child or student.

Moreover, the consent of a child or a student to engage in sexual misconduct or sexual abuse or exploitation may not be a defense or a mitigating factor in any discipline proceeding under this Act (24 P.S. §2070.1a).

There is often confusion over the terms “sexual abuse or exploitation” and “sexual misconduct”. Sexual abuse or exploitation is a ground for discipline under the Act and is defined by reference to the definition found in the Child Protective Services Law. Sexual abuse or exploitation is a serious form of sexual misconduct and is also a specific category of child abuse. For our purposes, sexual abuse or exploitation includes any physical, visual, or verbal sexual behavior between an educator and a child or student. The term sexual abuse or exploitation also includes a number of sex-related crimes when committed against a child.

ALL educators now have a mandatory duty to report to PDE any action, inaction or conduct by an educator which may constitute sexual abuse or exploitation or sexual misconduct under the Act. **CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS** under the Act have enhanced duties to report a variety of misconduct including a duty to report any educator against whom an allegation of sexual misconduct or sexual abuse or exploitation has been made. Failure to report such misconduct is a ground for discipline against the educator or the chief school administrator.

With the amendments to section 9a of the Act, chief school administrators are obligated to file a mandatory report within 15 days on:

- Any educator who has been provided with notice of intent to dismiss or remove for cause, notice of nonrenewal for cause, notice of removal from eligibility lists for cause or notice of a determination not to reemploy for cause;
- Any educator who has been arrested or indicted for or convicted of any crime that is graded a misdemeanor or felony;
- Any educator against whom allegations have been made that the educator has committed sexual abuse or exploitation involving a child or student; or engaged in sexual misconduct with a child or student;
- Information which constitutes reasonable cause to suspect that an educator has caused physical injury to a child or student as a result of negligence or malice;
- Any educator who has resigned, retired or otherwise separated from employment after a school entity has received information of alleged misconduct under the Act, notwithstanding any termination agreement to the contrary that the school entity may enter into with the educator;

- Any educator who is the subject of a report filed by the school entity under the reporting requirements of 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to child protective services); and
- Any educator who the school entity knows to have been named as the perpetrator of an indicated or founded report of child abuse or named as an individual responsible for injury or abuse in an indicated or founded report for a school employe under 23 Pa.C.S. Ch. 63.

A mandatory report is distinct from a complaint. If upon review, PDE determines that the conduct detailed in the mandatory report is actionable under the Act, PDE will file a complaint. Similarly, PDE may file a complaint against an educator based on information received from the National Clearinghouse discussed above.

All interested parties, including educators and chief school administrators, may file a report or a complaint alleging other misconduct that is not captured in the mandatory report provisions of the Act but that may warrant state level disciplinary action.

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 are entitled:

- 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 eLEARNING COURSE

For the last year, the PSPC has been working with PLS 3rd Learning to develop an online training that will satisfy, in part, the mandatory training requirements set forth in Act 126 (24 P.S. § 1205.6), which requires every employee and contractor of a school entity who has direct contact with children to complete a minimum of three hours of training every five years in the areas of child abuse recognition and reporting, sexual misconduct recognition and reporting, the Educator Discipline Act, maintenance of professional and appropriate relationships with students and employer policies related to reporting abuse and sexual misconduct.

The PSPC's three-hour training, which will be online before the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, will be available at no cost on the SAS portal for Act 48 credit and will consist of four modules:

Module 1 addresses the laws and regulations that govern the standards of conduct for educators and that establish the legal processes for addressing misconduct by educators;

Module 2 discusses the parameters of the student-teacher relationship and provides tips for establishing and maintaining appropriate boundaries;

Module 3 focuses on recognizing and responding to sexual misconduct; and

Module 4 familiarizes course takers with their legal and ethical responsibilities to report educator misconduct.

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 Act, while the Practices Committee is responsible for reviewing and revising the implementation of the Act and its concomitant bylaws and regulations.

The membership of the committees for 2015 is as follows:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

James Gilhooley, Chair

George Drake

Phyllis Comer

Eugene Dangelo

Tom Baker

Ryan Devlin

Constance Henry

PRACTICES COMMITTEE

Myron Yoder, Chair

Elizabeth Brewer

David Shutter

Lisa Barbour

Meghan Nese

OUTREACH

Throughout 2015, the PSPC provided significant outreach to school entities, educational associations, teacher preparation programs and human resource officers. One such workshop is entitled “Ethical Dimensions of the Education Profession” and is designed to inform the education profession of its responsibilities, to familiarize educators with the PSPC and to explain the discipline system. In addition, the PSPC has offered trainings in response to specific requests on topics related to professional conduct, mandatory reporting, discipline and the challenges of social media. With the passage of the amendments to the Act, the PSPC offered targeted training to all chief school administrators and other educators on the significant amendments including mandatory reporting. The PSPC wishes to thank the leadership of the intermediate units across the commonwealth for their assistance in providing these workshops.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In an effort to protect both the affected educator and the complainant, the Act mandates strict confidentiality concerning all information relating to complaints and disciplinary proceedings unless or until discipline, other than a private reprimand, is imposed. Cases based on criminal indictments, convictions, or reciprocal discipline are not subject to the confidentiality provisions. Moreover, the Act excepts consultation with and the provision of information to law enforcement, child protective services and to licensing agencies in this commonwealth, as well as in other states or jurisdictions. Violations of the Act’s confidentiality provisions constitute a misdemeanor of the third degree. The confidentiality provisions will not, however, protect an individual from civil prosecution who knowingly and maliciously provides false information in the course of a disciplinary proceeding. Unlike disciplinary proceedings, reinstatement proceedings are not confidential.

2015 DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS

In 2015, interested parties filed 768 educator misconduct complaints with PDE. Every complaint is reviewed to determine whether there is jurisdiction over the complaint and if sufficient factual and legal grounds exist to proceed against the educator.

In addition to complaints, PDE received 379 mandatory reports from school entities. In 2015, hearing proceedings were initiated by PDE with the filing of a Notice of Charges with the PSPC in 129 cases.

The following table reflects the disposition of cases in which *public* discipline was imposed during the 2015 calendar year. Decisions that resulted in private reprimands are not captured in the table¹.

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
Reimer	Curtis	Suspension	1/2/2015	Conviction: Criminal Trespass
Lasavage	John	Surrender	1/6/2015	Allegations: Engaged in uncharacteristic conduct due to health reasons
Gross	Jules B.	Surrender	1/11/2015	Conviction: Endangering the

¹ Please note that all adjudications of the PSPC are available online. In addition, all of the determinations listed in the chart can also be found online in the Notice of Certification Actions link on the PDE website: www.education.pa.gov

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				Welfare of a Child (NJ)
Fisher	Matthew K.	Surrender	1/12/2015	Charged: Corruption of Minors
Serianni	Jon R.	Surrender	1/12/2015	Charged: Child Pornography, Corruption of Minors
Barrick	Deborah L.	Public Reprimand	1/18/2015	Conviction: DUI (FL)
Batykefer	Megan Kathleen	Surrender	1/18/2015	Allegations: Engaged in sexual intercourse with a student
Barber	William A.	Immediate Suspension	1/22/2015	Charged: Statutory Sexual Assault, Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault
Kalista-Richards	Marcia	Immediate Suspension	1/22/2015	Charged: Aggravated Assault
McGarvey	Daniel S.	Immediate Suspension	1/22/2015	Charged: Soliciting a Minor via Computer (WV)
Zuber	Tonya M.	Immediate Suspension	1/22/2015	Charged: Aggravated Assault, Endangering the Welfare of Children
Lewis	Toie	Public Reprimand	2/1/2015	Conviction: DUI 2nd Offense
Chapman	Christopher	Surrender	2/2/2015	Allegations: Engaged in a non-educational relationship with a student
Henning	Nicole	Surrender	2/2/2015	Allegations: Engaged in non-professional communication with students
Kreider	Nicole K.	Public Reprimand	2/6/2015	Conviction: DUI Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .10-.16) 2nd Offense, DUI General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely 2nd Offense
Schweitzer	Phillip T.	Surrender	2/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Theft by Deception, Access Device Fraud
Ross	Amy P.	Public Reprimand	2/13/2015	Conviction: DUI Highest Rate (BAC .16+) 2nd Offense
Leiseth	Tiffany G.	Surrender	2/14/2015	Conviction: Selling/Furnishing Liquor to Minors
Kopetsky	Deborah A.	Public Reprimand	2/17/2015	Allegations: Violated the integrity and security of the PSSA by failing to maintain the security of the test documents and failing to ensure staff received proper training related to administration of PSSA's
Stock	Nathan L.	Surrender	2/19/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors
Bernstein	Nioma B.	Immediate Suspension	2/20/2015	Charged: Corruption of Minors
Bailis	Jerry L.	Public Reprimand	2/23/2015	Allegations: Removing merchandise from the shelves of a store without paying for it and returning it for money
Thompson	Robert E.	Immediate Suspension	3/2/2015	Charged: Indecent Assault, Corruption of Minors

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
Campbell	Wayne T.	Surrender	3/10/2015	Allegations: Failed to maintain appropriate student-teacher boundaries
Quelly	Jennifer	Public Reprimand	3/11/2015	Conviction: Conspiracy – False Imprisonment
Babb	Michael T.	Public Reprimand	3/18/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate comments to students
Berger	Phyllis B.	Surrender	3/19/2015	Conviction: Stalking-Repeatedly Commit Acts to Cause Fear, Terroristic Threats with Intent to Terrorize Another
Walko	Hubert J.	Suspension	3/19/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate relationship with a student
Jacobs	Steven R.	Suspension	3/20/2015	Conviction: DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+) 2nd Offense
Vaughn	Chad E.	Surrender	3/29/2015	Charged: Induce Minor to Buy Liquor/Malt Beverage and DUI with Blood Alcohol Level .10% or Greater
Polimadei	Fernando A.	Surrender	4/1/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate sexual conduct in his vehicle and Convicted of Disorderly Conduct Hazardous/Physical Offense
Senofonte	Janine	Public Reprimand	4/1/2015	Conviction: DUI Highest Rate of Alcohol 2nd Offense
Kyle	Merideth L.	Suspension	4/2/2015	Conviction: DUI Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+) 2nd Offense, Accident Involving Damage to Attended Vehicle/Property
Banko	Stacee M.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Allegations: Walked out of a Kohl's department store with a shopping bag full of merchandise without paying
Bankus	Bryan E.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition
Bremont	Michael R.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree (OR)
Cassidy	Sean D.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (SC)
Congdon	Christina A.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession With Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy-Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Crum	Jonathan M.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors
Dailey	Harriet	Surrender	4/8/2015	Conviction: DUI Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+) 2nd Offense
Deangelo	Anthony J.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Allegations: Stole a television from his employer and operated a motor vehicle while under the

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				influence of alcohol and depressants
Dunn	Tyler M.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking Movable Property
Eck	Timothy J.	Surrender	4/8/2015	Allegations: Engaged in inappropriate conduct with a student and inappropriate use of district issued computer resources
Entenman	Michelle M.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Deception
Harrington-Cooper	Lauren	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors, Institutional Sexual Assault
Hill	Mary Robyn	Suspension (3/30/10-9/30-14)	4/8/2015	Allegations: Failed a mandated drug screening and drove her vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance
Houck	Scott W.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Hyduchak	Dolores A.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Allegations: Stole approximately \$13,865.92 worth of merchandise from Macy's Department Store while a store employee
Kligge	Stephanie A.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds
Martinelli	Christopher M.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Unlawful Contact with a Minor-Sexual Offenses
Olson	Eric D.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking Movable Property
Petherick	Michael W.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Aggravated Assault
Sperry	Jeffrey M.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: False Reports to Law Enforcement Authorities-Falsely Incriminate Another
Stevens	Matthew L.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors
Teitsworth	Lori A.	Surrender	4/8/2015	Charged: Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance by Person Not Registered, Marijuana, Use/Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, DUI: Controlled Substance-Schedule I-3rd Offense, DUI-Controlled Substance-Impaired Ability-3rd Offense
Vangilder	Cynthia J.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Conspiracy to commit Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Whisler	Kevin J.	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Theft by Deception
Wright	Conal	Revocation	4/8/2015	Conviction: Invasion of Privacy
Belmonte	Rebeca S.	Surrender	4/9/2015	Reciprocal Discipline:

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				Inappropriate relationships with male students (VA)
Brindisi	Melissa A.	Immediate Suspension	4/9/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors
Herb	Andrea N.	Revocation	4/9/2015	Conviction: Theft by Deception, Endangering Welfare of Children
Leahy	Tamie Leigh	Revocation	4/9/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Engaged in inappropriate sexual contact and communication with a student, furnished contraband to students, divulged too much personal information to students, failed to inform supervisor of DUI arrest and conviction (CA)
Schailey	Michael	Suspension (9/1/07-9/1/09)	4/9/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Submitted falsified documents to Department of Education (NJ)
Schuster	Jennifer	Public Reprimand	4/9/2015	Allegations: Found an envelope containing money and kept it for her own use
Sokol	Matthew R.	Revocation	4/9/2015	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children
Schlemmer	Laurel M.	Immediate Suspension	4/14/2015	Charged: Criminal Homicide, Endangering Welfare of Children, Aggravated Assault, Criminal Attempt-Criminal Homicide
Flatley	Brandon W.	Immediate Suspension	4/17/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with Minor
Gray	Darlynn L.	Surrender	4/24/2015	Allegations: Violated the integrity and security of the PSSA exams
Boyer	Brian D.	Suspension (1/10/14-1/10/16)	5/3/2015	Allegations: Violated the district's acceptable use policy
Duczeminski	Mattlock	Surrender	5/4/2015	Charged: Endangering the Welfare of a Child (NY)
Schmidt	Robert C.	Surrender	5/4/2015	Charged: Corruption of Minors, Institutional Sexual Assault
Layser	Christina	Surrender	5/5/2015	Allegations: Engaged in inappropriate interactions with students
Johnson	James C.	Surrender	5/8/2015	Allegations: Engaged in inappropriate contact with students
McNevech, III	Charles J.	Surrender	5/8/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Discipline imposed pursuant to 24 P.S. 2070.9e (MD)
Sciamanna	Patricia A.	Suspension (Two year)	5/8/2015	Allegations: Violated the security of the PSSA exams
Redmond	Leonard E.	Surrender	5/9/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (OH)
Welch	Kelly L.	Surrender	5/9/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (NJ)
McKool	Kaitlyn A.	Immediate Suspension	5/12/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault
Milleman	Alexander L.	Surrender	5/14/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (OH)

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
Parker-Brown	Patricia	Public Reprimand	5/14/2015	Conviction: DUI with Property Damage/Personal Injury (FL)
Houser	Paul W.	Surrender	5/15/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (NJ)
Paliotto	Mario J.	Surrender	5/18/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (OH)
Wenrich	Celeste	Suspension	5/18/2015	Allegations: Provided a minor student with alcohol, engaged in inappropriate contact and communication with student
Belovitz	Walter J.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received
Beveridge	Gary R.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors
Boyce	Kathryn L.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition
Brandemarte	John V.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Bank Robbery (Federal)
Colbert	Mark E.	Immediate Suspension	5/27/2015	Charged: Forcible Sodomy, Aggravated Sexual Battery, Carnal Knowledge of a Child Between Thirteen and Fifteen Years of Age (VA)
Dukulah	Sumo	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Rape-Forcible Compulsion, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Endangering Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors, Rape of a Child
Green	Jerry Robert	Revocation	5/27/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Revoked in California for accessing sexually explicit websites and materials on district laptop and inappropriate interactions with students and colleagues
Kelly	David M.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Revoked in New Jersey after conviction for Possessing Instrument of Crime and Recklessly Endangering Another Person
Kondo	Roberta G.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Delivery of a Controlled Substance (ID)
Mattie	Carrie A.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: False Statements – Fraudulently Obtain /Food Stamps, False Reports to Law Enforcement, Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
McCrary	Keith A.	Suspension (6/20/2014 - 8/4/204 and 6/1/2015 - 7/15/2015)	5/27/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Suspended in Ohio for administration of testing improprieties
Moore	Tina M.	Surrender	5/27/2015	Conviction: Theft by Failure to

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				Make Required Disposition of Funds
Newman	Richard S.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Stalking
Saville	Dane C.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Revoked in North Carolina for inappropriate texts and communications with student
Seiple	Angela Diane	Suspension (8/26/2013 - 8/26/2014)	5/27/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Suspended in Florida for bringing and consuming alcohol on school grounds at school open house
Slade	Michael A.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Access Device Fraud
Thoma	Cara A.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Insurance Fraud, Unlawful Acts
Willard	Wendy A.	Revocation	5/27/2015	Conviction: Stalking
Chianese	Kathlee M.	Public Reprimand	5/29/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Reprimanded in Ohio for failing to report promptly suspected child abuse
Cooper	Jason E.	Immediate Suspension	5/29/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors
Derentz	Michael	Immediate Suspension	5/29/2015	Charged: Sexual Abuse of Children-Child Pornography
Dougherty	Michael	Revocation	5/29/2015	Reciprocal Discipline: Revoked in New Jersey for failure to follow school policy and directives and for placing student in risk of bodily harm
Frazier	Scott C.	Revocation	5/29/2015	Conviction: Indecent Assault
Hostutler	Mark V.	Immediate Suspension	5/29/2015	Charged: Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children
McKillop	Domenique	Revocation	5/29/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors
Sharkey	Shawn A.	Revocation	5/29/2015	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with Minor
Walsh	Christopher K.	Revocation	5/29/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking-Movable Property, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds
McAndrew	Maggie	Surrender	6/3/2015	Allegations: Physically and verbally abused students
Talley	Rae	Surrender	6/4/2015	Conviction: Conspiracy, Wire Fraud
Vadala	Joseph	Public Reprimand	6/11/2015	Allegations: Meeting with student outside of school on multiple occasions without consent or knowledge of parents
Wilson	Andrea	Surrender	6/17/2015	Allegations: Voluntary Surrender
Amato	Stephanie M.	Immediate Suspension	6/19/2015	Charged: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Statutory Sexual Assault, Endangering

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Exposure, Indecent Assault, Institutional Sexual Assault
D'Annibale	James D.	Surrender	6/19/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate communications with student
Ruggieri	Joseph J.	Immediate Suspension	6/19/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors
Baker	James P.	Surrender	6/20/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate conversations with students and comments about students
Lied	Donna L.	Surrender	6/22/2015	Conviction: DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely-3rd Offense, DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol-3rd Offense, Defiant Trespasser
Berson	Ellen	Surrender	6/23/2015	Allegations: Violated the integrity and security of the PSSA exams
Hochschwender	Paul E.	Surrender	7/2/2015	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors and Indecent Assault
Hostutler	Mark V.	Surrender	7/6/2015	Conviction: Endangering Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors
McLaughlin	Cole G.	Surrender	7/10/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Obscene and Other Sexual Materials and Performances, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Indecent Assault, and Endangering Welfare of Children
Cadman	Stephen J.	Public Reprimand	7/14/2015	Allegations: Engaged in inappropriate communications regarding a student
Rankin	Michael C.	Surrender	7/14/2015	Charged: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Statutory Sexual Assault, Aggravated Indecent Assault, Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault
Chepelevich	Christopher	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Obscene Communication - Use Computer to Seduce, Solicit, Lure Child and Obscene Communication (FL)
Depaul	Casie K.	Suspension (11/16/2012 - 5/16/2016)	7/20/2015	Allegations: Forged prescriptions
Ginnetti	Erica A.	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Obscene and Other Sexual Materials and Performances
Marino	Frank M.	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Taking Indecent Liberties with a Child by Person in Custodial or Supervisory Relationship (VA)

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
Paulsen	Stephen A.	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Coercion and Enticement of a Minor to Engage in Sexual Activity (TX)
Sabatine	Palmer F.	Immediate Suspension	7/20/2015	Charged: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Seroka	Keith A.	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Theft by Deception
Skief	Masai Q.	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Wire Fraud (Federal)
Stahl	Stephen F.	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Corruption of Minors
Swider	Michael J.	Immediate Suspension	7/20/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Criminal Use of a Communication Facility
Zielinski	Kathleen	Revocation	7/20/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition
Kopchick	George A.	Revocation	7/21/2015	Conviction: Possession of Child Pornography
Alba	Johnathan	Surrender	7/23/2015	Conviction: Terroristic Threats
Gordon	William C.	Public Reprimand	7/26/2015	Allegations: Temporarily creating unsanitary environment for a minor child
Hertz	Michael J.	Public Reprimand	7/27/2015	Conviction: DUI --Highest Rate of Alcohol (2nd Offense)
Hubbard	Edward A.	Surrender	7/28/2015	Conviction: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (SC)
Melvin	Byron D.	Public Reprimand	7/29/2015	Conviction: Harassment (summary offense)
Dewease	Bryan	Surrender	7/30/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate relationship with former student, including sexual contact and providing alcohol; also misused district technology resources
Schaldenbrand	Charles J.	Immediate Suspension	7/30/2015	Charged: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Mott	Nicholas H.	Suspension	7/31/2015	Conviction: DUI- Highest Rate of Alcohol -- 2nd Offense
Bertovich	Matthew R.	Surrender	8/1/2015	Charged: Rape, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Statutory Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault, Aggravated Indecent Assault, Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Criminal Use of Communication Facility, Child Pornography
Ruppert	Jonathan	Surrender	8/10/2015	Charged: Indecent Assault, Corruption of Minors
Wellman	Gail E.	Surrender	8/14/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (NY)
Gallo	Karen M.	Surrender	8/18/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (FL)
Leister	Tamara Z.	Public Reprimand	8/19/2015	Allegations: DUI 2nd Offense
Millheim, Jr	Bruce	Suspension	8/20/2015	Allegations: Improper discipline

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
		(10/14/2011 - 1/2/2012)		and teaching methodology
Bernstein	Nioma B.	Surrender	8/23/2015	Conviction: Sell/Furnishing Liquor/ Malt/Brewed Beverage to a Minor
Scavitto	Matthew J.	Surrender	8/24/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children
Davies	Kim A.	Surrender	8/27/2015	Conviction: DUI, Disorderly Conduct, Promoting Prostitution, Use or Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; Charged: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance, Criminal Use of Communication Facility
Uniejewski	Anthony	Surrender	8/27/2015	Charged: Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault
Coulton	John C.	Surrender	8/28/2015	Reciprocal Discipline (NJ)
Wagner	Dianne C.	Public Reprimand	8/29/2015	Allegations: provided inappropriate assistance to special education students during administration of PSSA
Randolph	Christian D.	Suspension (June 30, 2013 - June 30, 2015)	8/31/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate use of school computer
Faust (Maggs)	Jamie	Suspension (1/19/2013 - 1/19/2015)	9/1/2015	Allegations: Lived in a home where marijuana plants were grown
Adonzio	Philip	Public Reprimand	9/8/2015	Conviction: Disorderly Conduct Hazardous/Physical Offense
Penn	Matthew D.	Public Reprimand	9/10/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate comments to students
Heim	Anastasia	Suspension (3/31/2015 - 3/31/2017)	9/23/2015	Allegations: Unprofessional conduct with staff member
Markle	Gretta	Surrender	10/1/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking
Higgins	Kiara	Surrender	10/5/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate relationship with a student
Rowe	Joshua W.	Suspension (May 6, 2013 - November 6, 2015)	10/8/2015	Allegations: Solicited sexual acts that constitute immorality, incompetence and intemperance
Treezise	Melinda	Surrender	10/8/2015	Charged: Statutory Sexual Assault, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Interference with Custody of Children, Unlawful Contact with a Minor

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
Yungwirth	Aaron J.	Immediate Suspension	10/8/2015	Charged: Endangering the Welfare of Children
Clough	Megan F.	Immediate Suspension	10/14/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault
Flatley	Brandon W.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with a Minor
Geibel	Jamison	Immediate Suspension	10/14/2015	Charged: Sexual Abuse of Children, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Corruption of Minors
Hamilton, Jr.	Kenneth F.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Accessing with Intent to View Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors, Attempted Receipt of Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors, Distribution of Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors
King	Lynn M.	Public Reprimand	10/14/2015	Allegations: Driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol with children in the vehicle
Knecht	Lisa J.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Endangering the Welfare of Children
Leidhecker	Jeremy	Surrender	10/14/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate contact and communication with a student
McCullough	Todd D.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Indecent Assault, Indecent Exposure
Potter	Kristin	Suspension	10/14/2015	Allegations: Engaged in conduct constituting immorality, incompetence, intemperance, cruelty and negligence in a school setting
Sestak	Nicole M.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition
Szychulski	Bridgett F.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Statutory Sexual Assault, Aggravated Indecent Assault
Thompson	Robert E.	Revocation	10/14/2015	Conviction: Indecent Assault
Carfagno	Manfred	Surrender	10/15/2015	Allegations: Charged with Harassment/DUI
Kalwaic	Richard	Surrender	10/16/2015	Conviction: Child Pornography, Criminal Use of Communication Facility
Bancroft	Michael	Immediate Suspension	10/28/2015	Charged: Interference with Custody of Children, Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Myers	Sharon	Public Reprimand	10/29/2015	Allegations: DUI Highest Rate,

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				2nd offense
Holjes	Mark	Public Reprimand	10/30/2015	Allegations: DUI Highest Rate, 2nd offense
Rodnicki	Lisa M.	Immediate Suspension	11/4/2015	Charged: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Breisinger	Ryan	Revocation	11/24/2015	Conviction: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Caldwell	Robert D., Jr.	Immediate Suspension	11/24/2015	Charged: Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Sexual Abuse of Children - Child Pornography, Corruption of Minors
Caldwell	Robert D., Sr.	Immediate Suspension	11/24/2015	Charged: Sexual Abuse of Children - Child Pornography and Photographing, Videotaping, Depicting on Computer or Filming Sexual Acts
Cross	Katie L.	Immediate Suspension	11/24/2015	Charged: Institutional Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Corruption of Minors, Endangering Welfare of Children
Deck	Brandon T.	Surrender	11/24/2015	Charged: Sexual Abuse of Children
Janesko	Rebecca	Revocation	11/24/2015	Conviction: Criminal Attempt - Burglary
Johnson	Toni L.	Revocation	11/24/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition
Lonas	Susan	Surrender	11/24/2015	Allegations: Contaminated child's glucose needle
Radziwon	Brenda M.	Revocation	11/24/2015	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Receiving Stolen Property
Smith	Marjorie	Public Reprimand	11/24/2015	Allegations: Attempted to impose improper discipline and counseling upon a student
Swider	Michael J.	Surrender	11/24/2015	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault
Warner	Megan	Revocation	11/24/2015	Conviction: Manufacture, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance
Whitmer	Brittany	Surrender	11/24/2015	Allegations: Inappropriate relationship with an 18 year old student; Charged: Corruption of Minors
Williams-Earle	Meredith V.	Revocation	11/24/2015	Conviction: Involuntary Manslaughter
Wysochanski	Bruce	Surrender	11/24/2015	Allegations: Three DUI related offenses; Charged: Aggravated Assault by Vehicle while DUI,

Last Name	First Name	Action Taken	Date of Action	Grounds
				General Impairment/Incapable of Safe Driving
Groh	Mandi	Immediate Suspension	12/23/2015	Charged: Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Simple Assault, Obstruction of Law Enforcement, Recklessly Endangering another Person, Disorderly Conduct, Furnishing Liquor to a Minor, Criminal Mischief, Public Drunkenness

In addition to the disciplinary cases decided in 2015, the PSPC determined the propriety of reinstatement in the following cases:

2015 REINSTATEMENTS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DISPOSITION	DATE OF DISPOSITION
Weindorfer	Peter G.	Dismissed	4/08/2015
McGill	Brian	Granted	4/08/2015
Hayden	Jeffrey J.	Dismissed	5/29/2015

DATA TRENDS

As evidenced by the chart below, over the past few years the number of complaints and mandatory reports filed with PDE has increased significantly. The cumulative effect of this increase is an exponential rise in the number of open cases pending in PDE.

YEAR	MANDATORY REPORTS	COMPLAINTS	NOTICE OF CHARGES FILED	HIGH PRIORITY CASES	OPEN CASES
2010	*	204	31	112	167
2011	*	256	48	80	275
2012	116	563	107	228	539
2013	82	482	127	225	756
2014	342	776	114	220	1065
2015	379	770	129	205	1459

* No data available

GOALS FOR 2016

The PSPC is committed to providing continued leadership to the education profession and to providing support and guidance to the State Board of Education and PDE. Each year the PSPC engages in a strategic planning session with the purpose of identifying and prioritizing future initiatives. The current initiatives include:

- strengthening the inclusion of ethics in teacher preparation programs;
- conducting an in-depth research study of all cases over a five-year period to isolate factors to help inform outreach and preventative strategies and to analyze consistency in the imposition of sanctions;
- exploring the inclusion of coaches and paraprofessionals under the commission’s jurisdiction;
- creating an evaluation protocol for health care professional evaluations in reinstatement proceedings;
- developing electronic filing protocol;
- developing fee/fine schedule;
- finalizing amendments to regulations; and
- implementing Act 126 e-Learning course.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2016

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 general public is welcome to attend. While the decisions of the PSPC are announced in public, the actual deliberations concerning individual discipline cases are held in executive session. Regular meetings of the PSPC for 2016 are scheduled as follows in the Heritage Rooms, Lobby, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg:

January 25, 2016
March 14, 2016
May 9, 2016
July 11, 2016
September 19, 2016
November 14, 2016

APPENDIX A

Section 111(e)(1)-(3) Offenses:

Criminal Homicide	Incest
Aggravated Assault	Concealing Death of Child
Stalking	Endangering Welfare of Children
Kidnapping	Dealing in Infant Children
Unlawful Restraint Rape	Felony Prostitution
Luring a Child into a Motor Vehicle or Structure	Obscene and Other Sexual Materials and Performances
Rape	Corruption of Minors
Statutory Sexual Assault	Sexual Abuse of Children
Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse	Unlawful Contact With a Minor
Sexual Assault	Solicitation of Minors to Traffic Drugs
Institutional Sexual Assault	Sexual Exploitation of Children
Aggravated Indecent Assault	Any Offense Designated as a Felony Under the Controlled
Indecent Assault	Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act
Indecent Exposure	Any Offense Similar In Nature to Above Under the Laws of
Sexual Intercourse With an Animal	Another State, Jurisdiction, Territory or Foreign Nation

Crimes Found to Involve Moral Turpitude:

(in addition to the per se moral turpitude crimes set forth in section 111(1)-(3) of Public School Code)

Access Device Fraud	Invasion of Privacy
Aggravated Sexual Battery (PA)	Involuntary Manslaughter
Battery (CA)	Lewd and Lascivious Assault on Child
Bank Robbery	Lewdness (Honduras)
Bribery in Official & Political Matters	Mail Fraud (NJ, NV, NY, Fed)
Burglary	Making False Statements to Federal Agency
Carnal Knowledge of a Child Between Thirteen and Fifteen Years of Age (VA)	Money Laundering of Drug Trafficking Proceeds
Coercion and Enticement of a Minor (Fed)	Obscene Communications (FL)
Contributing To Delinquency of a Minor (NJ, SC, VA, FL)	Obstruction of Justice (Fed)
Cruelty and Neglect of Children (NJ)	Open or Gross Lewdness (NV)
Defrauding Public Welfare	Pharmacy Act, Violation Of
DUI-Manslaughter (FL)	Perjury
Endangering the Welfare of Children (NY)	Public Indecency (VT, OH)
Enter Dwelling House, Etc. With Intent to Commit Larceny, Assault And Battery or Other Felony (VA)	Receiving Stolen Property
False Declarations Before a Grand Jury (Fed)	Sexual Abuse by a Custodian (W.VA)
False Reports to Law Enforcement	Sexual Abuse of Children (OH)
Falsely Altering Military Records	Sexual Battery (OH)
Falsifying Business Records	Taking Liberties With Child By Person in Custodial/Supervisory Role (VA)
Felonious Assault (OH)	Tampering With Evidence (OH, NY, NJ, PA, GA)
Forcible Sodomy (VA)	Terroristic Threats
Forgery	Theft by Deception
Fraudulent Use of Credit Cards	Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds
Grand Larceny	Theft by Unlawful Taking
Gross Sexual Imposition (OH)	Trafficking In Counterfeit Goods
Homicide by Vehicle	Transportation of Minors ---Travel With Intent to Engage In Illicit Conduct (Fed)
Impairing the Morals of a Minor (NJ)	Unlawful Contact or Communication With Minor (DE)
Indecency With a Child (TX)	Unlawful Sexual Contact With a Minor (CA)
Insurance Fraud	Unlawful Sexual Intercourse With a Minor (CA)
Infliction of Injury on Spouse (CA)	Wire Fraud
Intimidation of a Witness	

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Information about the PSPC and the educator discipline system, including adjudications, are available online at www.pspc.education.pa.gov. The PSPC welcomes questions and requests for workshops or other assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

The following publications are available:

- Chapter 233—Bylaws—Statement of Policy
- Chapter 237—Definitions of Statutory Terms
- Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators
- Adjudications of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission
- Educator Discipline Act (24 P.S. §§2070.1a *et seq.*)
- PSPC Commissioner Handbook
- Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators Poster
- Why, Where and How to Report Educator Misconduct?
- Roles and Responsibilities of Non-Certificated Educators Under the Educator Discipline Act
- Recognizing and Reporting Sexual Misconduct Under the Educator Discipline Act
- The Ethical Educator and Professional Practices: FAQs

To obtain copies, please submit your request to:

Professional Standards and Practices Commission
333 Market Street, 9th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

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

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