# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

October 2021



# 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
2020 Membership	2
Committee Structure	2
Calendar of Meetings for 2020	2
Mission Statement	3
Introduction	3
Disciplinary Authority	3
Grounds For Discipline	5
2020 Disciplinary Actions	7
Outreach	30
Available Resources	30

#### 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 2020. 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 2020.

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 2020 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 administrative assistant, Kyle Shemory, for their guidance and dedication.

Respectfully,

Myron Yoder, Chairperson Pro Tempore

Professional Standards and Practices Commission

Revised October 2021

1

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION 2020 MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

Brandon Aukamp Elizabethtown Area School District Educational Specialist

Mark Anderson Elizabethtown Area School District Teacher

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

Dr. Robert Hollister Eastern Lancaster County School District Administrator

Christopher M. Gegaris Tri-Valley School District Administrator

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

Dr. Stacey Marten Hempfield School District Teacher

Michelle Duggan, Esquire Public Member

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

Vacancies:

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 2020**

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 2020 were scheduled as follows:

**January 13, 2020** 

March 23, 2020

May 11, 2020

July 27, 2020

**September 14, 2020** 

November 23, 2020

#### **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: <a href="www.pspc.education.pa.gov">www.pspc.education.pa.gov</a>.

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,¹ mandatory reports by school entities and educators,² 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;

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.

<sup>1.</sup> 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.

<sup>2.</sup> 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.

- 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;
- 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.

#### **GROUNDS 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.

## **2020 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 2020 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 of 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	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Agnew	Julia S.	Conviction: Criminal Attempt to Commit Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition	Revocation	02/10/2020	Philadelphia Charter School for Arts & Sciences at H.R. Edmunds
Aman	Kimberly B.	Conviction: Assault with a Deadly Weapon (NC)	Revocation	12/23/2020	
Amsterdam	Holly M.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+)-2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense, and DUI Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+)-3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	Suspension	01/31/2020	
Anderson	Brian C.	Conviction: Conspiracy- Manufacturing, Delivery or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance	Revocation	06/24/2020	
Anonia	Mark	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with	Surrender	08/17/2020	Shamokin Area SD

<sup>3.</sup> 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.

Revised October 2021 7

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		students, including requesting inappropriate photos of a female student via text message.			
Baggetta	Nicodemo M.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors	Revocation	10/16/2020	Fell Charter School
Baggetta	Ruth A.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors, Failure to Report or Refer	Revocation	10/16/2020	Lakeland SD
Beltrami	Kathleen A.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Aggravated Assault by Vehicle, Accidents Involving Death or Personal Injury, DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely – 1st Offense, and DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+)–1st Offense.	Suspension	08/17/2020	Hazelton Area SD
Birdwell	Eric D.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Obscene and Other Sexual Materials and Performances after engaging in sexually-explicit online conversations with an undercover officer	Revocation	12/29/2020	

Revised October 2021

8

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		posing as a thirteen- year-old girl.			
Bolar	Alexander	Allegations: Educator made inappropriate comments to female students.	Surrender	12/23/2020	Pottstown SD
Boucher	Kevin P.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication with students	Public Supplemental Sanction	06/23/2020	Allentown City SD
Boylan	Johanna M.	Allegations: Educator drove a motor vehicle containing her two children while under the influence of alcohol, and was, as a result, convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+)-1st Offense.	Public Reprimand	01/31/2020	Tredyffrin-Easttown SD
Brady-McKee	Darice J.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	12/23/2020	
Bresnick (Moschetta)	Heather M.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate interactions with students.	Public Supplemental Sanction	09/29/2020	Allegheny IU #3; Northeastern York SD
Brewer	Janelle M.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate communication and conduct with students.	Suspension	06/22/2020	New Directions
Buckshon	Robyn	Allegations: Educator was under the influence of alcohol while at work.	Suspension	12/23/2020	Mid Valley SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Burke	Amy L.	Charges: Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	01/17/2020	Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18
Call	Danielle M.	Allegations: Educator obtained prescription medications by misrepresentation.	Public Reprimand	12/23/2020	Scranton SD
Campbell	Oliver J.	Allegations: Educator engaged in improper communication with a student and failed to accurately complete paperwork in accordance with Act 168.	Surrender	12/23/2020	Manheim Township SD
Chalker	Joan W.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Tampering with a Witness, Victim or Informant, and Destruction, Alteration, or Falsification of Records in Federal Investigations and Bankruptcy.	Surrender	01/31/2020	Keystone Academy Charter School
Chouinard	Christine E.	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	02/27/2020	Downingtown Area SD
Chouinard	Christine E.	Allegations: Educator was criminally charged following her conduct of being intoxicated in the classroom.	Surrender	09/28/2020	Downingtown Area SD
Christie	Diane L.	Allegations: Educator was charged with DUI for the third time after crashing her car into the concrete stairwell of a building.	Surrender	06/22/2020	Grove City Area SD

Revised October 2021

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Clark	Tiffany L.	Charges: Aggravated Assault, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Simple Assault, Recklessly Endangering Another Person	Immediate Suspension	08/07/2020	Connellsville Area SD
Collins	Patrick F.	Allegations: Numerous instances in which Educator was intoxicated in public and breached the public peace	Surrender	06/22/2020	Wilkes-Barre Area SD
Coon	Jessica L.	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition	Revocation	10/16/2020	Altoona Area SD
Cooper	Tarley P.	Conviction: Aggravated Assault, Recklessly Endangering Another Person	Revocation	01/31/2020	
Costain	Michelle	Allegations: Educator engaged in an improper relationship with a male student, that included physical and sexual contact, and boundary violations with a female student. Educator also filmed herself performing a "peep show" in her classroom during which she revealed her bare buttocks.	Surrender	01/31/2020	Yough SD
Соу	Michael S.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	06/24/2020	York Suburban SD
Detwiler	Timothy A.	Conviction: Use of Obscene Matter with	Revocation	12/23/2020	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Intent to Seduce a Minor (WV)			
Dickson	David	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	12/23/2020	Warren County SD
Donath	Jonathan E.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault	Revocation	01/31/2020	Greater Johnstown SD
Donohue	Meredith A.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Retail Theft and Possession of a Controlled Substance by a Person Not Registered	Suspension	02/04/2020	Philadelphia SD
Dorman	John P.	Conviction: Felony Facilitation of Transportation of Marijuana for Sale (AZ)	Revocation	06/26/2020	Penn Hills SD
Drew	Abey S.	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition	Revocation	06/24/2020	York Suburban SD/Dallastown Area SD
Eberhart	Andrew C.	Charges: Sexual Abuse of Children, Criminal Solicitation- Sexual Abuse of Children, Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	09/24/2020	Palmyra Area SD; Cornwall-Lebanon SD
Evans	Alyse R.	Allegations: Educator falsified her certificate to add the area of special education and, as a result, was charged with Forgery, Criminal Use of a Communication Facility, Unsworn Falsification to Authorities,	Surrender	12/23/2020	Moon Area SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Tampering with Public Records or Information, and Illegal Use of a Professional Title.			
Farr	Bryan T.	Conviction: Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Images (NH)	Revocation	12/23/2020	
Feldman	Steven M.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Surrender	12/23/2020	Chester County IU 24
Filippelli	Matthew J.	Allegations: Educator had inappropriate communication with two students	Suspension	06/23/2020	Our Lady of Fatima School
Fingerhoot	Jessica	Conviction: Conspiracy- Manufacture, Delivery, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance	Revocation	12/23/2020	Greater Johnstown SD
Fowler	Sarah L.	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	01/17/2020	Harrisburg City SD
Fowler	Sarah L.	Allegations: Educator forced, and directed others to force, a 6-year-old student to walk up and down a staircase over 100 times throughout the school day, at times grabbing him by the arm and by the seat of his pants. Educator also withheld lunch from the student, withheld a bathroom	Surrender	09/29/2020	Harrisburg City SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		break from the student causing him to wet himself, and left her class in the care of others without permission.			
Fox	Michael A.	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	12/23/2020	Portage SD
Geary	Angela M.	Conviction: Theft by Deception	Revocation	01/31/2020	
Glad	Carolyn F.	Allegations: Educator stole a jar full of antique gold and silver coins valued at \$4,282.18, jewelry, \$250, and silverware from two senior citizen clients while employed by Gallagher Home Health Care.	Revocation	08/18/2020	Pittsburgh SD
Gock	Jennifer	Allegations: Educator is the subject of an indicated report of child abuse as a result of choking a 7-year-old special education student. Additionally, Educator was charged with numerous drugrelated offenses as a result of selling cocaine to an undercover office on multiple occasions.	Surrender	01/31/2020	Philadelphia City SD
Goldstein	Nicole H.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors	Revocation	01/31/2020	

Revised October 2021

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Goshert	Elizabeth M.	Conviction: False Reports to Law Enforcement Authorities	Revocation	10/16/2020	
Guth	David L.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate interactions with students and provided alcohol to a minor.	Surrender	09/28/2020	Cranberry Area SD
Handley	Darren A.	Conviction: Theft by Taking (GA)	Revocation	06/24/2020	Fayette County Public Schools (GA)
Hanrahan	William F.	Conviction: Terroristic Threats	Revocation	10/16/2020	Delaware County Technical High School
Harper	Harold J.	Charges: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Indecent Assault, Corruption of Minors	Surrender	01/31/2020	
Harshman	Susan L.	Allegations: Educator engaged in unprofessional behavior in the classroom.	Surrender	08/17/2020	Intermediate Unit 1
Hart	James R.	Conviction: Invasion of Privacy	Revocation	01/31/2020	Fox Chapel Area SD
Heller	Michael W.	Conviction: Embezzlement (VT)	Revocation	06/24/2020	Windham Southwest Supervisory Union (VT)
Henise	Stephen G.	Charges: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors	Surrender	12/23/2020	York Country Day School
Hoehne	Linda A.	Allegations: Educator consumed and possessed alcohol on school grounds and pleaded guilty to DUI: General	Suspension	09/29/2020	Pennsbury SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense, and DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense.			
Holland	Michael P.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: General Impairment/Incapable of Driving Safely – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense, Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Officer, Criminal Trespass– Defiant Trespasser, Simple Assault, Marijuana – Small Amount Personal Use, and Use/Possession of Marijuana		12/23/2020	Philadelphia SD
Horvath	Ronald E.	Conviction: Workman's Compensation Insurance Fraud, False Swearing	Revocation	12/23/2020	
Hunsinger	Henry W.	Conviction: Aggravated Indecent Assault of a Child	Revocation	06/24/2020	
James	Sonya D.	Conviction: Receiving Stolen Property	Revocation	01/31/2020	
Johns	Angeline C.	Conviction: Theft by Deception	Revocation	01/31/2020	Philadelphia City SD
Karas	Samuel J.	Allegations: Educator had inappropriate communications and interactions with a student.	Surrender	09/28/2020	Pittsburgh SD
Katz	Jared S.	Allegations: Educator engaged in sexually	Public Reprimand	06/22/2020	Philadelphia City SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		harassing conduct toward adult female staff members, at times in front of students.			
Kauffman	Brock W.	Allegations: Educator misused his schoolissued computer and furnished alcohol to a minor.	Surrender	08/17/2020	Glendale SD
Kavistan	Jason	Charges: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Endangering the Welfare of Children	Immediate Suspension	08/07/2020	Huntingdon Valley Christian Academy
Keiser	Chad T.	Charges: Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	06/24/2020	Red Lion Area SD
Kelly	Francis X.	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Theft by Deception	Revocation	06/24/2020	
Kinder	Renee N.	Conviction: Conspiracy to Distribute and to Possess with Intent to Distribute a Quantity of Cocaine	Revocation	06/26/2020	Ringgold SD
Kiser	Matthew R.	Conviction: Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children, Manufacture, Delivery, or Possession with Intent to Manufacture or Deliver a Controlled Substance	Revocation	12/23/2020	Warren County SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Konnen	Daniel	Conviction: Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child (NY)	Revocation	12/23/2020	
Krasnick	Daniel A.	Conviction: Attempted Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, Attempted Perjury in the First Degree (NY)	Surrender	01/31/2020	Bethlehem Area SD
Krone	Brandon L.	Allegations: Educator provided alcohol to a student for senior week and on multiple occasions after the student graduated.	Revocation	12/23/2020	Red Lion Area SD
Kummer	Thomas H.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors	Surrender	09/28/2020	Abington SD
Lannen	Robert L.	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children- Child Pornography, Dissemination of Photo/Film of Child Sex Acts	Revocation	06/24/2020	
Leon	Robert	Charges: Sexual Abuse of Children – Child Pornography	Immediate Suspension	09/24/2020	
Lord	Matthew J.	Founded Report: Causing Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of a Child Through Any Act/Failure to Act	Revocation	10/16/2020	Northern Lebanon SD
Ludwig	Robert	Charges: Dissemination of Explicit Sexual Material to a Minor, Corruption of Minors,	Immediate Suspension	11/04/2020	Harbor Creek SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Unlawful Contact with Minor			
Luksik	James E.	Charges: Institutional Sexual Assault, Indecent Assault, Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	02/11/2020	Bishop Carroll Catholic High School
Maranuk	Patrick M.	Charges: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Statutory Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Corruption of Minors, Indecent Assault	Immediate Suspension	02/27/2020	Career Institute of Technology
McKee	Patrick	Allegations: Educator had inappropriate communications with students and engaged in a sexual relationship with a student.	Surrender	12/23/2020	Indiana Area SD
McKool	Kaitlyn A.	Allegations: Educator engaged in appropriate contact with a student	Surrender	06/22/2020	
McElhatten	Kimberly B.	Allegations: Educator engaged in unprofessional classroom behavior	Public Supplemental Sanction	06/22/2020	Spring Cove SD
Mea	Bradley E.	Conviction: Second Degree Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (SC)	Revocation	12/23/2020	South Carolina Public Charter SD
Oates	Nicole V.	Conviction: Endangering the Welfare of Children	Revocation	01/31/2020	

Revised October 2021

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Ondish	Jordan D.	Allegations: Educator had an inappropriate sexual relationship with a student. Educator was also convicted of Retail Theft after stealing \$1,800.00 worth of merchandise from a store where she worked.	Revocation	12/29/2020	Summit Academy
Ordonez	Victor M.	Charges: Sexual Abuse of Children- Child Pornography	Immediate Suspension	02/27/2020	Harrisburg City SD
O'Sullivan	Christopher	Charges: Enticement of a Minor, Manufacture of Child Pornography	Immediate Suspension	11/04/2020	Belmont Charter School
Palmaccio	Mary	Charges: Endangering the Welfare of Children, Simple Assault, Harassment, Disorderly Conduct	Immediate Suspension	09/24/2020	Devereux Advance Behavioral Health
Palmer	Ronald C.	Allegations: Educator inappropriately interacted with and touched students, texted students, and had inappropriate content on his Districtissued Chromebook, which was accessible to students.	Surrender	01/31/2020	Hanover Public SD
Patton (Wade)	Tonya M.	Conviction: Embezzlement of Property Received by Virtue of Office or Employment (NC)	Surrender	06/22/2020	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
Pearson	Barney	Conviction: Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition, Receiving Stolen Property, Theft from a Motor Vehicle	l .	08/17/2020	
Peronace	Rocco L.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+)-3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense, and provided false information on an application for certification	Suspension	01/31/2020	Philadelphia SD
Pertusio	Keith D.	Conviction: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Incest, and Sexual Abuse of Children	Surrender	06/22/2020	
Pileggi	Susan M.	Allegations: Educator engaged in a pattern of professional misconduct while working as a substitute teacher, and was convicted of Disorderly Conduct after grabbing a four-year-old child by the arms and wrists and lifting him off the floor, causing a partially dislocated elbow.	Revocation	12/29/2020	Bucks County IU 22
Poklemba	Andrew J.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of multiple alcohol and drug-related offenses between 2008 and 2013.	Revocation	08/17/2020	
Priano	Jonathan A.	Charges: Unlawful Contact with Minor,	Immediate Suspension	11/04/2020	Wilmington Area SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors, Endangering the Welfare of Children			
Puzo	Rebecca	Allegations: Educator is the subject of an indicated report of child abuse following allegations that she engaged in inappropriate communication with a student.	Surrender	06/23/2020	Summit Academy
Race	Kimberly	Charges: Statutory Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	01/17/2020	Catasauqua Area SD
Rauch	Doris	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Simple Assault after grabbing a 4-year-old boy by both legs and flipping him over onto his stomach with such force that she broke the child's left clavicle.	Surrender	06/22/2020	Kiddie Korner Preschool
Reed	Peter	Allegations: Educator commented on a student's body and told her she was beautiful, and text messaged both a male student and a female student on his personal cell phone.	Surrender	08/17/2020	Erie SD
Reppert	Francis J.	Allegations: Educator used electronic devices to take inappropriate photographs of students and himself in the classroom	Surrender	09/28/2020	Palisades SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		environment.			
Romesburg	Joseph A.	Charges: Statutory Sexual Assault, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Corruption of Minors, Criminal Solicitation-Child Pornography, Criminal Solicitation- Dissemination of Explicit Sexual Material to a Minor, Display Obscene/Sexual Materials, Criminal Use of a Communication Facility	Surrender	09/28/2020	
Ryan	Bridget C.	Conviction: Theft by Deception, Conspiracy-Theft by Deception	Revocation	10/16/2020	
Sanders	Valorie B.	Conviction: Access Device Fraud, Conspiracy-Access Device Fraud, Unauthorized Use of Motor/Other Vehicles, Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds Received	Revocation	10/16/2020	
Sauro	Kristen A.	Allegations: Educator drove under the influence of alcohol and was under the influence while at work.	Suspension	12/23/2020	Sto-Rox SD
Schimpf	Dale C.	Conviction: Statutory Sexual Assault,	Revocation	10/16/2020	Diocese of Allentown

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Corruption of Minors, Indecent Exposure			
Shaffer	Scott M.	Allegations: Educator engaged in a pattern of grooming female students, contacting them after graduation, and providing them with alcohol for the purpose of engaging in sexual contact.	Revocation	12/29/2020	Columbia-Montour Area Vocational Technical School
Shaldenbrand	Charles	Allegations: Educator was convicted of Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance, DUI-2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense, and Driving Without a License. Educator was also charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and two traffic offenses.		08/17/2020	Montour SD
Shank	Robert Hyatt	Allegations: Educator engaged in a sexual relationship with a male student while employed as a teacher and coach by the Cumberland Valley School District from 1973-1976.	Surrender	06/22/2020	Northern York County SD
Singer	Angela M.	Conviction: Intentional Possession of a Controlled Substance by Person not Registered, Tampering with or Fabricating Physical Evidence,	Revocation	06/24/2020	South Park SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Use/Possession of Drug Paraphernalia			
Smith	David R.	Charges: Indecent Assault	Immediate Suspension	08/07/2020	
Somahkawahho		Allegations: Educator failed to make a report of child abuse, failed to report her arrest for Endangering the Welfare of Children to her employer as required by law, and provided false information on an application for certification.	Suspension		Philadelphia SD
Steck	Mary C.	Allegations: Educator bit a former neighbor on the arm and was convicted of Harassment as a result.	Revocation	08/18/2020	Pittsburgh SD
Stellhorn	Thomas E.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Solvent or Noxious Substance – 1st Offense, Sale or Illegal Use of Certain Solvents and Noxious Substances, Accident Involving Damage to Attended Vehicle/Property (2014), Sale or Illegal Use of Solvents and Noxious Substances (2014), DUI: Solvent or Noxious Substance – 2nd Offense, Fleeing or Attempting to Elude Officer (2016),		01/31/2020	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Sale or Illegal Use of Certain Solvents and Noxious Substances (2018), and Sale or Illegal Use of Certain Solvents and Noxious Substances (2019).			
Sterner	Timothy M.	Charges: Attempt/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	Immediate Suspension	08/07/2020	Lancaster SD
Streeper	Lora A.	Conviction: Unlawful Acts – Procurement of a Drug for Self or Other by Fraud	Revocation	10/16/2020	Bensalem Township SD
Swift	Jennifer D.	Allegations: Educator engaged in conduct unbecoming of an education professional and failed to accurately respond on the Employment History Review statutorily required under 24 P.S. § 1-111.1.	Surrender	09/28/2020	York City SD
Talik	Ronald R.	Conviction: Official Oppression, Theft by Unlawful Taking or Disposition	Revocation	01/31/2020	
Taxis	Coleman A.	Conviction: Unsworn Falsification to Authorities –	Revocation	12/23/2020	

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Statements under Penalty			
Thomas	Cathy M.	Allegations: Educator failed to investigate or report allegations of sexual misconduct involving an educator and was criminally charged with Failure to Report or Refer and Disorderly Conduct as a result.		01/31/2020	Clearfield County CTC
Thompson	Richard A.	Allegations: Educator Engaged in Unprofessional Behavior in the Classroom	Surrender	01/31/2020	Milton Area SD
Toner	Patricia	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI: Highest Rate of Alcohol (BAC .16+)-2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense and Public Drunkenness	1	01/31/2020	
Trombetta	Nicholas	Conviction: Conspiracy to Commit Offense or to Defraud United States	Revocation	02/10/2020	Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School
Vassallo	Kelli S.	Conviction: Institutional Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors	Revocation		Williamsport Area SD; Loyalsock SD
Vigna	John	Conviction: Child Abuse: Sexual, Sexual Offense in the Third Degree-Sexual Contact without Consent, Sexual Abuse of a Minor,	Revocation	06/26/2020	Montgomery County Public Schools (MD)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		Sexual Offense in the Third Degree (MD)			
Welliver	Mikelanne	Allegations: Educator was criminally charged with Medicaid Fraud, Theft by Deception, and Forgery after submitting falsified documentation to her employer to obtain payment for services she had not rendered.	Surrender	06/22/2020	Central Susquehanna IU 16
Willoughby	Earl O.	Charges: Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse with a Child, Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, Sexual Assault, Corruption of Minors	Immediate Suspension	06/24/2020	
Wilson	Paul R.	Allegations: Educator was convicted of DUI in August and September of 1998 and again in March of 2017. Educator was also convicted of two counts of Simple Assault in October of 2017.	Suspension	01/31/2020	Philadelphia City SD
Wilson	Sheriee	Conviction: Theft by Deception, Tampering with Public Records or Information, Medicaid Fraud	Revocation	01/31/2020	
Winters	Tami L.	Allegations: Educator engaged in unprofessional conduct that was	Suspension	08/17/2020	Keystone SD

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE	EMPLOYER (if known) <sup>3</sup>
		directed toward students and staff.			
Wonderling	Michael T.	Conviction: Sexual Abuse of Children – Child Pornography	Revocation	12/23/2020	Brockway Area SD
Wright	Barbara J.	Conviction: Acquisition or Obtain Possession of a Controlled Substance by Misrepresentation, Forgery	Revocation	01/31/2020	
Yaeckel	Richard	Allegations: Educator was charged with Endangering the Welfare of Children, Indecent Assault, and Corruption of Minors after admitting that he touched his stepdaughter's breasts and buttocks when she was between the ages of 16 and 19 years old	Surrender	06/22/2020	
Zott	Douglas L.	Allegations: Educator engaged in inappropriate conversations with a student	Surrender		Pittsburgh SD/Penn Hills SD

# Reinstatement (24 P.S. § 2070.16)

In 2020, the PSPC considered six (6) 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
Dunphy	John	Granted	08/17/2020
Filippelli	Matthew J.	Denied	12/29/2020

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DISPOSITION	DISP DATE
Markle	Gretta	Granted	10/22/2020
Milano	Christie A.	Granted	06/22/2020
Watkins	Robert W.	Granted	08/17/2020
Weaver	Ashley	Granted	06/23/2020

#### **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 2020, 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: <a href="https://www.pspc.education.pa.gov/ethics-toolkit">www.pspc.education.pa.gov/ethics-toolkit</a>

#### **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:

- Chapter 233—Bylaws—Statement of Policy
- Chapter 237—Definitions of Statutory Terms
- Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators
- Educator Discipline Act (24 P.S. § 2070.1a et seg.)
- 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