

# Report of the Professional Standards Board

July 1, 2011

## PURPOSE

Pursuant to 14 Delaware C. §1205(a), as amended by House Bill 88, the Professional Standards Board is required to file reports on the first day of January, April, July, and October of each calendar year with the Governor, the General Assembly, the State Board of Education and the Department of Education.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION

In the spring of 2011, the Professional Standards Board pursued amending DE Code regarding requirements for educators to be issued an Initial License. The amendments pertained to timelines for passing a test of content knowledge and allowing specialist experiences to be used in lieu of student teaching. The PSB sought legislative action to update the licensure requirements and require passage of a test of content knowledge prior to licensure. The Standards Board found that nationally, most teacher preparation programs already require the participants to pass the basic skills test, Praxis I (one of the tests currently recognized by PSB regulation). All teacher preparation programs in Delaware require students to pass the basic skills test prior to student teaching. The standing language allows for a grace period for educators to pass the test after licensure through the end of the second fiscal year after hire. The amendment would require that educators pass a basic skills test such as Praxis I prior to licensure and would eliminate the current grace period for all educators except the Skilled and Technical Sciences Teachers. The proposed legislation would not change the standing language that allows a grace period for these educators through to the end of their Emergency Certificate, which is valid for 6 years. The proposed legislation would also allow the recognition of speciality area practical experience as an alternative to the required student teaching experiences for specialists. There are currently some specialists who are considered educators and receive an educator license, such as school nurses, school psychologist, school social workers, and school library media specialists. Some specialists do not participate in a typical student teaching program, as required in DE Code. The proposed amendments to Code would allow for internships, practicums and clinical experiences to be used in lieu of the typical student teaching experience and would give a fourth alternative to student teaching for the specialists who are not teachers or administrators.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Professional Standards Board is a sixteen-member Board comprised of eight (8) teachers, four (4) school or district administrators, two (2) parents, one (1) district school board member, and one (1) representative from Delaware's Higher Education community. A quorum of nine (9) is necessary to hold a meeting and ten (10) affirmative votes are required to pass any Motion or take any official action. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

Current members of the Professional Standards Board are as follows:

<b>Kathleen Thomas, Chair</b>	<b>Cristy Greaves, Vice Chair</b>
<b>Michael Casson</b>	<b>Joanne Christian</b>
<b>Samtra Devard</b>	<b>Stephanie DeWitt</b>
<b>Marilyn Dollard</b>	<b>Karen Gordon</b>
<b>Lori Hudson</b>	<b>Chris Kenton</b>
<b>David Kohan</b>	<b>Jill Lewandowski</b>
<b>Wendy Murray</b>	<b>Whitney Price</b>
<b>Shelley Rouser</b>	<b>Jacque Wisnauskas</b>

## THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD MISSION

The Mission of the Delaware Professional Standards Board is to assure competence and promote excellence among professional educators to meet the needs of the community of learners in the State.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

The Delaware Professional Standards Board has two (2) standing committees, and may convene additional committees as necessary for particular purposes. The two (2) standing committees are the *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee* and the *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee*. The committee members are comprised of at least one member of the Professional Standards Board and any additional members as are approved by the Chair of the Professional Standards Board and the Secretary of Education. Each committee has traditionally been co-chaired by a Department of Education representative appointed by the Secretary of Education and a non-Department of Education representative elected by the committee membership. The membership of each committee is broad-based and includes teachers, administrators, higher education representatives, parents, and a member of a local district Board of Education. The *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* and the *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee* meet as needed. Both committees work diligently to thoughtfully review and make recommendations about those items that are referred to them.

The *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee* reviews existing regulations regarding licensure and certification and makes recommendations to the Professional Standards Board for amended, reauthorized or new regulations. The *Committee* also recommends the repeal of regulations that are longer viewed as relevant or necessary. All regulations acted upon by the Professional Standards Board have been reviewed by the *Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee*, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Delaware Higher Education Institutions, and practitioners.

The *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* is responsible for making recommendations to the Professional Standards Board concerning professional development opportunities for educators and proposed compensation under the knowledge and skills section of 14 Del. C. §1305. All professional development clusters approved by the Professional Standards Board and the State Board of Education have been rigorously reviewed by the *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* before being recommended for approval. The final approval of all professional development clusters is contingent on available appropriations. As of June 30, 2007, the Delaware Office of Management and Budget approved educator salary supplements thrice a year: April one, August one and December one.

On May 21, 2008 a moratorium was placed on salary supplements for clusters and national certifications that had yet to be initiated, by the Joint Finance Committee in collaboration with the DE Office of Management and Budget. This moratorium has since impacted the frequency of the *Professional Development and Associated Compensation Committee* meetings.

New regulations are created and existing regulations are reviewed and adopted, amended, reauthorized or repealed in collaboration with the Department of Education, and with concurrence of the State Board of Education. The Professional Standards Board Executive Director has developed a proactive review process to ensure collaboration of regulation review with the Department of Education. Although implementation of regulations is the responsibility of the Department of Education, the Professional Standards Board makes every effort to work closely with the Department of Education to facilitate effective, timely implementation.

## **PSB WEBSITE**

The Professional Standards Board website may be accessed at: [www.doe.k12.de.us/psb](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/psb)

## **ACTIVITIES – April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011**

- At its meeting of April 7, 2011, the Standards Board, voted affirmatively the Final Approval of amended 14 DE Admin. Code 1582 *School Nurse*. The only change in certification criteria was the addition of requiring current certification in the use of

an automatic external defibrillator. Written comments from the State Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Governor's Advisory Committee for Exceptional Citizens were received. A grammatical change was incorporated into the regulation. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on April 21, 2011 the approval of this regulation, which became effective on May 11, 2011.

- At its meeting of May 5, 2011, the Standards Board, voted affirmatively for the Final Approval of amended 14 DE Admin. Code *1556 School to Work Transition Teacher*. Amends to this regulation allows for the Jobs for Delaware Graduate Office to provide necessary professional development to teacher candidates when requisite courses are not available at local Institutions of Higher Education. Written comments received from the State Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Governor's Advisory Committee for Exceptional Citizens were incorporated in the regulation without substantively impacting the published regulation. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on May 19, 2011 the approval of this regulation, which became effective on June 11, 2011.
- At its meeting of May 5, 2011, the Standards Board, voted affirmatively for the Final Approval of amended 14 DE Admin. Code *1584 School Social Worker*. Amends to this regulation were limited to formatting. Written comments received from the State Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Governor's Advisory Committee for Exceptional Citizens supported the formatting changes. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on May 19, 2011 the approval of this regulation, which became effective on June 11, 2011.
- At its meeting of May 5, 2011, the Standards Board spent a considerable amount of time discussing regulation *1591 School Principal and Assistant Principal*. Both the Board and a Workgroup consisting of staff from the three DE Institutions of Higher Education that offer post-graduate programs in administration have been working on making changes in certification criteria that would better prepare school leaders. Discussion focused on the current option of a 'course count' and years of teaching experience required. The general consensus for a change in one of the education requirements was to require the incorporation of *1590 Delaware Administrator Standards* in any course of study approved by the Board and the State Board of Education. The question of years of teaching experience was discussed as well. The topic of requiring an assessment similar to a Praxis II test of content knowledge generated further discussion.
- At its meeting of June 2, 2011, the Standards Board spent a significant amount of time discussing regulation *1506 Emergency Certificate*. Mr. Michels had developed a noteworthy Report built on data from the Delaware Educator Data System (DEEDS) and Department of Education *eschool* data. *Eschool* data is data that is directly related to students, their schedules and educators teaching courses. This Report had

been previously shared with the School Chiefs and district and charter school HR Personnel with subsequent limited feedback. The Board is concerned with the current number of Emergency Certificates, the Standard Certificate areas in which districts and charter schools apply for these, and the number of students impacted on a daily basis by those on Emergency Certificates (or those with no certificate in the class area). The consensus of the Board is to further limit the validity of Emergency Certificates and place more responsibility on the districts and charter schools to move the educator to a Standard Certificate. Conversations with the State Board of Education in the near future will help in determining a coherent path forward with amendments to the regulation.

- At its meeting of June 2, 2011, the Standards Board, voted affirmatively for the Final Approval of proposed 14 DE Admin. Code *1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards*. The Department of Education encouraged the adoption of this regulation in order establish State-wide expectations for professional development and to meet a Delaware *Race To The Top* pledge. The pledge entailed ensuring that all professional development and supports are effective by creating a statewide certification system for professional development, measuring student and participant outcomes, and continuously improving programs. The Standards Board previously recognized the same professional development standards when evaluating clusters. This regulation sets forth the standards for all educators' professional development in Delaware. Written comments were received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens who expressed concern about the lack of explicit charter school references and the use of the terms 'adult' and 'educator'. The Professional Standards Board took notice of these concerns, but determined that a change was not necessary. The Board noted that the standards were adopted verbatim and amending the terms would be inappropriate. The State Board of Education voted affirmatively on June 16, 2011 the approval of this regulation which will become effective on July 11, 2011.
- At its meeting of June 2, 2011, the Standards Board approved the 2011-2012 Professional Standards Board meeting schedule. It is posted on the PSB website.
- The following additional Professional Standards Board regulations are being reviewed and are projected to move forward in the regulation process in the next several months:
  - *1505 Standard Certificate*
  - *1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities*
  - *1592 School Leader I*
  - *1593 School Leader II*