

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR TEACHERS

Annual Report
January 2003

Mission

In 1997, Wisconsin Act 298 created the Professional Standards Council for Teachers (PSCT) under the direction of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The Council consists of 19 members appointed by the State Superintendent and confirmed by the Senate; professional associations or institutions nominate seventeen members. Additionally, a parent representative and a student representative are included. (Appendix A)

In the words of the Wisconsin Legislative Staff memorandum in 1998:

“The primary focus of the council is on classroom teaching. The purpose of the council is to ensure quality in the profession of Teaching by recommending to the State Superintendent a set of high standards for licensing that maintains quality classroom teaching, addresses the changing needs for the instruction of pupils in the state And provides the continual professional development of teachers.”

The Act provides a statutory mechanism **to review, propose, or revise teacher preparation policies** and **to assist the State Superintendent in improving teacher preparation, licensure, and regulation**. (Appendix B). The task is greatly enhanced by the attendance of the current state superintendent at all meetings of the Council.

Consistent with the statutory duties of the PSCT to “report annually to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature on the activities and effectiveness of the council”, the Council respectfully submits this report.

“... to review, propose, or revise teacher preparation policies”

- Council members made recommendations on the vendor for the content tests that are a part of the new rules in PI34. After review of competitive proposals from prospective vendors, Educational Testing Service (ETS) was recommended and ultimately selected by the State Superintendent to develop the content tests for our state. Progress in that development is ongoing.

- The Council has consistently advocated for a Special Education work group to address issues in that area pertaining to PI34, primarily regarding cross-categorical licenses. A group was formed and has brought their proposals to the Council and the State Superintendent for review.
- A proposal for an “innovative and experimental program” under PI34 from UW-Platteville was presented to the Council. The Council unanimously endorsed the proposal. It allows for a deviation from the student levels in the rules for the early adolescent license, in light of the specialty program at UW-Platteville in Middle Level Education.
- The Council reviewed a Transition to Teaching Grant program being developed through the DPI and CESA #6 for a program under PI34.34 (11) creating professional teaching permits. The Department continues to work on the development of this program.

... to assist the State Superintendent in improving teacher preparation, licensure, and regulation

- The PSCT continues to work on enacting PI34. Council members were active participants with the Title II implementation grant work groups (sub-committees). This proved helpful when the reports were brought to the PSCT for review and recommendations.
- The Council has been kept apprised of efforts to fund PI34 and has offered feedback on aspects in this area. The PSCT did also recognize the need for Institutions of Higher Education to add personnel to deal with PI34 data gathering and analysis that is necessary to validate candidate performance.
- Currently, a major focus is statewide dissemination of PI34 rules that take effect in 2004. The State’s Institutions of Higher Education are redesigning their preparation programs to meet the PI34 requirements. The Council participated in the development of the program reviews conducted by the DPI. Members of the Council have assisted in the review of the implications of PI34 through various ad hoc groups, including PreK – 16 Councils and conventions.

Another area of responsibility includes the implications of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) with regard to state responsibility in general and PI34 implementation in particular. The Council continues to work with the Department of Public Instruction to develop strategies for implementing new ESEA federal requirements.

Conclusion

After filling recent Council vacancies, the PSCT currently has all positions filled, subject to confirmation. Council membership is broad-based as outlined in the statutes. Members are honored to serve on the Council in an effort to assure that Wisconsin continues to have the best-prepared educators in the nation.

Appendix A – Statutes creating the Professional Standards Council for Teachers

Appendix B – List of membership on the PSCT

Appendix C – The Wisconsin Standards

Appendix D – Copy of the motions and actions taken

Appendix E – Copy of the minutes