

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL FOR TEACHERS

Annual Report
January 2004

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)

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 had previously 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. The Council reviewed the selection process for the specific ETS content examinations and met with an ETS representative for an update and feedback on the process. “Passing” scores would be set, based on information gathered

during the 2003-04 testing cycle. Full implementation will take place beginning in 2004-05.

- The PSCT had consistently advocated for a Special Education work group to address issues in that area pertaining to PI34, primarily regarding cross-categorical licenses. Council members reviewed the rough draft of a survey constructed by the Focus Group on the issues and gave feedback..
- DPI personnel shared information and the results of the on-site visits to Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) and the status of implementation of the new rules.
- The Council reviewed the guidelines for alternative programs under PI 34, with a specific presentation of the MTEC program out of the Milwaukee area.
- Department personnel presented information on the Transition to Teaching Grant program in its final year. A model for developing such programs will be presented to the Council in the near future.

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

- Developing a program for statewide dissemination of PI34 rules that take effect in 2004 was a major focus for the Council's efforts for the year. A collaborative council of major stakeholders in the implementation of the rules set up a process to reach every school district in the state. The PSCT reviewed their efforts and gave feedback. Members of the Council participated in the workshops held throughout the state in the spring and summer. The Council is currently involved in the follow-up efforts to disseminate the basic information and to go beyond the initial plans.
- The PSCT continues to work with the participants in the state piloting the new Professional Development Plan (PDP) format. This is an ongoing effort that needs to be in place for the PI34 rules to be utilized.
- The Council received regular updates on the impact and details 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

Council membership is broad-based as outlined in the statutes. While there has been a turnover of members, those serving on the Council are honored to serve 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 – Copies of the minutes of 2003 meetings