

Professional Standards Commission

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PSC Overview

- ▶ The PSC consists of 18 constituency members that are nominated by respective stakeholders, appointed or reappointed by the State Board of Education for terms of three years:
 - Secondary or Elementary Classroom Teacher (5)
 - Exceptional Child Teacher (1)
 - School Counselor (1)
 - Elementary School Principal (1)
 - Secondary School Principal (1)
 - Special Education Director (1)
 - School Superintendent (1)
 - School Board Member (1)
 - Public Higher Education Faculty Member (2)
 - Private Higher Education Faculty Member (1)
 - Public Higher Education Letters and Sciences Faculty Member (1)
 - State Career & Technical Education Staff Member (1)
 - State Department of Education Staff Member (1)



PSC Overview

- ▶ The PSC has five standing committees that have specific duties:
 - **Authorizations Committee**
 - Professional Development Committee
 - **Executive Committee**
 - Budget Committee
 - **Standards Committee**



Professional Standards Commission

» Authorizations Committee –
Alternative Authorizations



PSC Alternative Authorizations

- ▶ Alternative Authorization Types
 - Teacher to New Certificate/Endorsement
 - Content Specialist
 - Pupil Personnel Services

- ▶ Non-Traditional Routes to Certification/Endorsement
 - American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE)
 - Teach for America (TFA)



PSC Alternative Authorizations

- ▶ There were 18,442 total certificated educators employed statewide during the 2015-2016 school year.
- ▶ The percentage of educators working with an alternative authorization was 4.10%

Authorization Type	Number of Authorizations
Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement	230
Content Specialist	348
Pupil Personnel Services	6
Non-Traditional Route - ABCTE	162
Non-Traditional Route - TFA	11
TOTAL	757



PSC Alternative Authorizations

▶ Top Five Endorsement Areas for 2015-2016

Alternative Authorizations – Teacher to New	Alternative Authorizations – Content Specialist	Non-Traditional Route - ABCTE
Exceptional Child: Generalist K-12 (46)	All Subjects K-8 (99)	All Subjects K-8 (96)
School Principal (22)	Exceptional Child: Generalist K-12 (75)	Exceptional Child: Generalist K-12 (42)
Superintendent (15)	Mathematics (24)	Mathematics (17)
Biological Science (12)	English (23)	English (16)
All Subjects K-8 (11)	Natural Science (18)	Biological Science (16)



Professional Standards Commission

» Ethics Complaint Process & Executive Committee



Ethics Complaint Process – Receiving a Written Complaint

- ▶ PSC must receive a signed written complaint
- ▶ Initial review of the complaint is conducted by PSC Staff and the PSC's deputy attorney general
- ▶ Outcome of the initial review is either:
 - Remand the issue to the school district to be resolved locally, or
 - Open the case for investigation



Ethics Complaint Process - Investigation

- ▶ An investigation may include but is not limited to:
 - Issuing subpoenas for information or documents related to the allegation
 - Evidence gathered by a contracted independent investigator
 - Position statement and/or evidence submitted by the respondent



Ethics Complaint Process – Executive Committee

- ▶ Executive Committee of the PSC reviews all documentation gathered from the investigation and determines if there is or is not probable cause that the respondent violated the Code of Ethics
 - No Probable Cause Determination – the case is closed
 - Probable Cause Determination – the Executive Committee recommends disciplinary action



Ethics Complaint Process – After Probable Cause Determination

- ▶ Respondent is notified of the probable cause determination and recommended discipline. Respondent may:
 - Stipulate to the findings and discipline
 - Request a hearing
 - Propose another option for consideration by the Executive Committee



PSC Executive Committee

- ▶ During 2015-2016, the PSC received 85 written complaints of alleged educator ethical misconduct, out of which 58 cases were opened.
- ▶ There were 59 cases closed during 2015-2016.
 - 39 cases – probable cause found with disciplinary action taken
 - 20 cases - no probable cause found
 - 3 of the 59 cases were for educators employed as an administrator



PSC Executive Committee

Summary of Closed Cases for Probable Cause Determination by Category of Ethics Violation

Category of Ethics Violation	Number of Cases Closed
Application Discrepancy	16
Breach of Contract	3
Felony (Other)	0
Felony (Violent)	0
Inappropriate Conduct	2
Inappropriate Conduct with Student	8
Miscellaneous	4
Misdemeanor	0
Sexual Misconduct Not with a Student	0
Sexual Misconduct with a Student	1
Substance Abuse	4
Theft-Fraud	1



PSC Executive Committee

Summary of Closed Cases for Probable Cause Determination by Type of Disciplinary Action

Type of Disciplinary Action	Number of Cases Closed
Conditioned Certificate	0
Letter of Reprimand	24
Revocation	5
Revocation (Permanent)	0
Suspension	8
Voluntary Surrender	2



Professional Standards Commission

» Standards Committee



PSC Standards Committee

- ▶ Reviews 20% of the educator preparation standards and endorsements each year. The following were reviewed during 2015-2016:
 - Elementary
 - Mathematics
 - Pre-Service Technology
 - Science
 - Visual/Performing Arts



PSC Standards Committee

- ▶ Completes educator preparation program reviews. The following programs were completed during 2015-2016:
 - Northwest Nazarene University
 - Idaho State University



Questions?

