



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 27, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Proposed Changes to the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers

The Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) presented proposed revisions to the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT) at the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting held on January 10, 2006 and February 14, 2006. SBE members discussed the revisions and proposed additional changes to the composition and charge of the PSCT. The SBE also expressed an interest in either having the military represented on the PSCT and/or incorporating the use of evaluative tools developed by the military into teacher preparation programs. The OPPS staff has proposed an increase to the number of global community members from one to three. A military representative could be nominated and selected in this category. The possible use of the military's evaluative tools and other resources would be one of the issues identified for review by the PSCT.

The OPPS staff has revised the PSCT document to reflect the SBE's recommendations as presented in Attachment A. Attachment B is the original proposal to create the PSCT as amended. Attachment C is the nomination form that must be completed by those wishing to nominate individuals for membership on the PSCT.

**It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Proposed Changes to the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 27, 2006.**

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR TEACHERS  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISED CHARGE AND COMPOSITION**

The State Board of Education has created within the Michigan Department of Education the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers as approved on April 5, 1988, and as revised on October 17, 1991.

As used in this document:

“Commission” means the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.

“Teacher” means a person who engages in teaching and includes classroom teachers, school librarians and media specialists, counselors, pre-kindergarten or early childhood teachers, and teachers in special education, vocational education, and other specialized fields required by the State Board to hold a teaching certificate or endorsement. “Teacher” includes a person who engages in teaching on a substitute or temporary basis, but does not include a teacher aide or paraprofessional.

**CHARGE OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR  
TEACHERS:**

In the last decade, research has validated the critical role of well-prepared teachers in successful student learning. Statistics show that high quality teaching can produce the same rate of educational gain across socio-economic levels. Michigan is a leading producer of teachers for the United States. The increasing need for rigor, relevance, and relationships in K-12 education requires substantive change to the ways we educate all teachers before and after they enter the classroom.

The State Board of Education (SBE) has statutory responsibility for policy considerations regarding the preparation of Michigan teachers. In order to encourage responsible innovation linked with successful student outcomes, and consistency of delivery of teacher preparation programs, the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT) is charged to:

1. Investigate and recommend standards of professional preparation and practice to improve the quality of the teaching profession and its positive impacts on student achievement;
2. Develop and recommend standards for the implementation of teacher internships, student teaching programs or other clinical teaching experiences for persons preparing to become teachers;
3. Review and recommend improvements in professional development, continuing education and recertification of teachers;
4. Review and recommend changes in policies related to the revocation of teaching certificates;

5. Advise the (SBE) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) on policies regarding teacher preparation quality, including standards for the preparation of teachers;
6. Review the "Educators Code of Conduct" and recommend revisions to strengthen the emphasis on ethical conduct and professional behavior of teachers; and
7. Review and recommend changes in the periodic review process based on current best practice and research.

**COMPOSITION:**

The SBE and the MDE recognize that it is important that the PSCT membership represent the ethnic, geographic, and social diversity of the State of Michigan. The PSCT is also expected to foster the SBE's policies including universal education and learning for all. In order to further these SBE priorities, and the increasing public visibility of the MDE decisions about teacher quality, the PSCT shall be revised to incorporate the following positions:

- One (1) member representing public universities approved for teacher preparation by the SBE;
- One (1) member representing independent colleges approved for teacher preparation by the SBE;
- Fourteen (14) members representing teachers (half elementary, half secondary teachers of content specialties) including: 1 nonpublic, 1 intermediate school district, 1 public school academy, and 4 representing each of the four core content areas of mathematics, English/language arts, science (group or individual subject), and social studies (group or individual subject), 1 career and technical education (CTE) teacher, and 1 school counselor. Teachers must have five years of experience to be eligible for recommendation to the PSCT;
- One (1) school administrator (superintendent, curriculum director, human resources director);
- Three (3) principals: one elementary, one middle school, and one secondary. Principals must demonstrate that they have met standards established by the "Elevating Educational Leadership Task Force";
- One (1) local school board member;
- One (1) Dean of Education from a public or private SBE approved teacher preparation institution;
- Three (3) members representing the global community (i.e., parents, community members, business and industry, etc.);
- One (1) member representing a public or private research institution or institute;
- One (1) member representing a community college; and
- One (1) SBE member (ex officio).

The SBE ex officio member shall represent the SBE at PSCT meetings and provide interaction between the SBE and PSCT members. The SBE member is a non-voting member.

A commission member who does not continue to have the qualifications which entitled that member to his or her original SBE appointment will be allowed to complete the remainder of his or her appointment term at the discretion of the SBE. The SBE shall retain the authority to nominate and appoint members of the PSCT. All other nominations will be referred to the SBE for review and approval.

**APPOINTEE BACKGROUND:**

Communication to organizations concerning nomination of individuals to serve on the commission will include the Board's wish that consideration be given to racial characteristics, ethnic origin, sex, and geographical location of the proposed appointee.

**RELATIONSHIPS OF MEMBERS TO STATE BOARD MEMBERS:**

No individual shall be eligible for appointment to a Board advisory council if related within the fourth degree of affinity or consanguinity (related by blood or marriage up to and including parents, sisters and brothers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and first cousins) to a member of the State Board of Education.

**NOMINATION OF MEMBERS:**

PSCT nominees shall be proposed to the SBE through the following process:

- Associations directly representing the vacant position category shall propose two nominees for each position available, using a biographical format of the SBE that includes information on race/ethnicity, gender, and educational philosophy, to assure a representative body. Nomination of only one individual shall not be considered for appointment by the SBE;
- Where more than one association represents a position category, nominations may be offered by all;

After 2006 nominations must be made by associations in writing by April 1 of the year the position will be vacated. OPPS staff will facilitate the nomination process. All nominations will be referred to the SBE for review and approval;

A list of all current members, their attendance record for their term of service, and their qualifications shall be submitted to the Board at least four (4) weeks prior to the end of their term; and

- The SBE shall notify staff of the recommendations for appointment four (4) weeks prior to the SBE meeting date set for approval of said appointments. Board members shall have four (4) weeks prior to that meeting date to submit names of nominees.

**LENGTH OF TERMS:**

In order to assure that the membership is dynamic, forward-thinking, and planning for the future of education in Michigan, the duration of terms shall be as follows:

The appointment terms for 2006 will be staggered with half being two-year terms and half being four-year terms. Current members whose terms began in 2005 will have their terms staggered via a random selection process;

After the re-composition of 2006, members shall serve one four-year term on the PSCT and will not be eligible for reappointment;

A member appointed to complete the remainder of a vacated term shall be eligible for nomination or appointment to his/her own four-year term; and

Appointment to the PSCT is effective upon approval by the SBE.

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:**

The PSCT shall be convened as needed by OPPS, but shall meet at least five times per year. Unexcused absence of any member from more than 2 consecutive meetings shall call for a new nomination process. Participation in meetings may be through electronic means at the expense of the nominating organization.

A member of the PSCT shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties if funds are available in the OPPS budget for such reimbursements.

**SBE APPROVAL OF PSCT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The PSCT shall submit its recommendations to the SBE on matters related to its charge after careful study of current state, national and international research, and address the current vision and goals of the SBE. The SBE shall consider the commission's recommendations within a 90-day period. The SBE, in responding to recommendations of the commission, shall take one of the following actions:

1. Approve;
2. Disapprove or reject; or
3. Disapprove or reject with comments and refer back to the commission for further study.

The commission shall publish and submit to the SBE minutes of its meetings, an annual report of the commission's work, and additional information or recommendations the commission considers necessary.

Adopted by the State Board of Education  
April 5, 1988  
Revised February 10, 2006

**A PROPOSAL TO CREATE A PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
COMMISSION FOR TEACHERS**

The State Board of Education creates within the Department of Education, the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.

As used in this proposal:

“Commission” means the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers.

“Teacher” means a person who engages in teaching and includes classroom teachers, school librarians and media specialists, counselors, pre-kindergarten or early childhood teachers, and teachers in special education, vocational education, and other specialized fields required by the State Board to hold a teaching certificate or endorsement. “Teacher” includes a person who engages in teaching on a substitute or temporary basis, but does not include a teacher aide or paraprofessional.

The commission consists of 15 members appointed by the State Board of Education. Ten commission members shall be teachers who have been teaching for not less than five years immediately preceding their appointment, including nine public school teachers and one nonpublic school teacher; at least one of the teachers shall be employed by an intermediate school district; two members shall represent the institutions of higher education which offer a State Board approved teacher preparation program; one member shall be a school administrator, one member shall represent the general public; and one member shall be serving on a board of education of a local school district. A commission member who does not continue to have the qualifications which entitled that member to his or her original State Board appointment will result in a vacancy of the member’s commission office.

- A. The term of each member shall be for terms of four years; except those initially appointed by the State Board, three shall be for a one-year term; three for a two-year term; four for a three-year term; and five for a four-year term.
- B. A member shall not serve more than two terms.
- C. A person appointed to fill a vacancy, occurring other than by the expiration of a term, shall be appointed for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
- D. A member shall serve until the member’s successor is appointed by the State Board.

**E. The commission shall select a chairperson for its own members**

**The Professional Standards Commission for Teachers is charged by the State Board of Education to:**

- 1. Investigate and recommend standards of professional practice to improve the quality of the teaching profession.**
- 2. Develop and recommend standards for the implementation of teacher internships, student teaching programs or other clinical teaching experiences for persons preparing to become teachers.**
- 3. Review and recommend changes in policies related to the continuing education and recertification of teachers.**
- 4. Review and recommend changes in policies related to the revocation of teaching certificates.**

**A member of the State Board of Education's Professional Standards Commission for Teachers shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.**

**The commission shall submit its recommendations to the State Board of Education on matters related to its charge. The State Board of Education shall consider the commission's recommendations within a 90-day period. The State Board of Education in responding to recommendations of the commission shall take one of the following actions:**

- 1. Approve;**
- 2. Disapprove; or**
- 3. Disapprove with comment and refer back to commission for further study.**

**The commission shall publish and submit to the State Board of Education an annual report of the commission's work and additional information and recommendations the commission considers necessary.**

**Adopted by the State Board of Education  
April 5, 1988  
Revised October 17, 1991**

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR TEACHERS  
NOMINATION FOR 4-YEAR TERM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2006**

Name:

Address:

Present Position:

Business Address:

Telephone Business:

Home:

E-Mail Address:

Prior Experience:

Educational and Other Organizational Affiliations:

Education:

**Please submit a statement of your educational philosophy regarding teacher preparation.  
A vitae or professional resume must be included with the nomination.**