



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 23, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael B. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval to Abolish the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers

At its August 25, 2010 Retreat, the State Board of Education discussed ways in which it secures input and guidance from the field related to state policy issues. Part of that discussion included utilizing standing advisory committees, such as the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT), and focused ad hoc committees, such as the Three-Tier Licensure Committee. The Board discussed the PSCT's successful completion of standards for all current content areas, the challenges for districts to cover the release time costs for the participation of teachers and administrators, and the increasing state and federal demands on Michigan Department of Education (MDE) staff that reduce available administrative and clerical support to sustain the PSCT.

As a result of its discussion, the Board asked staff to prepare a recommendation for its consideration to abolish the PSCT effective immediately. There was agreement that the Board will create ad hoc committees to secure input and guidance from the field, as needed. As those ad hoc committees are formed, the SBE and Michigan Department of Education (MDE) hope PSCT members will respond to requests to serve, particularly those charged with the periodic revision of the standards.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education (1) abolish the Professional Standards Commission for Teachers (PSCT); and (2) direct the Board President and Superintendent of Public Instruction to notify the PSCT members of the Board's action and prepare certificates of appreciation to the current members thanking them for their contributions to the standards development process and commitment to improving Michigan's education system.

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