# Table of Contents

Mission Statement ........................................................................................................3

Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics .................................................4

Certification Advisory Council Membership .........................................................5

CSPAC Goals and Strategies for 2016-2017 .........................................................6

Highlights of 2016-2017 CSPAC Meetings .........................................................8
Mission Statement

The mission of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council is to study and to make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and policies related to the denial, suspension and revocation of educator certification and the appeals process.

The Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council will submit a report to the Board of Public Education with recommendations for the above areas at least once annually.
Professional educators recognize and accept their responsibility to create learning environments to help all students reach their full potential. They understand the trust and confidence placed in them by students, families, colleagues, and the community. To achieve their professional purpose, educators strive to maintain the highest ethical standards. The Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics sets out these fundamental principles which guide their behavior.

**Principle I. Commitment to Students and Families. The ethical educator:**

A. Makes the well-being of students the foundation of all decisions and actions.
B. Promotes a spirit of inquiry, creativity, and high expectations.
C. Assures just and equitable treatment of every student.
D. Protects students when their learning or well-being is threatened by the unsafe, incompetent, unethical or illegal practice of any person.
E. Keeps information confidential that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling purpose in the best interest of students, or is required by law.
F. Respects the roles, responsibilities and rights, of students, parents and guardians.
G. Maintains appropriate educator-student relationship boundaries in all respects, including speech, print, and digital communications.

**Principle II. Commitment to the Profession. The ethical educator:**

A. Fulfills professional obligations with diligence and integrity.
B. Demonstrates continued professional growth, collaboration and accountability.
C. Respects the roles, responsibilities, and rights of colleagues, support personnel, and supervisors.
D. Contributes to the development of the profession’s body of knowledge.
E. Manages information, including data, with honesty.
F. Teaches without distortion, bias, or prejudice.
G. Represents professional qualifications accurately.

**Principle III. Commitment to the Community. The ethical educator:**

A. Models the principles of citizenship in a democratic society.
B. Understands and respects diversity.
C. Protects the civil and human rights of students and colleagues.
D. Assumes responsibility for personal actions.
E. Demonstrates good stewardship of public resources.
F. Exemplifies a positive, active role in school-community relations.
G. Adheres to the terms of contracts, district policies and procedures, and relevant statutes and regulations.

*Adopted by the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council July 13, 2016*
Term Expires

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CSPAC Goals – 2016-2017

1) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of approved teacher educator programs in Montana.
   a. Participate in CAEP/Montana accreditation reviews.
   b. Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards update recommended to BPE by CSPAC on a 5-year review cycle
   c. Continue to work with OPI to encourage the implementation of mentor programs across Montana to facilitate the induction of beginning teachers into the profession of teaching – work is ongoing

2) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the area of licensure renewal requirements and procedures.
   a. Review of Chapter 57. – completed October 2016
   b. As funding permits, attend the following conferences: Western States Certification, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, and National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future.
   c. Meet annually with the Board of Public Education and with the Council of Deans of Postsecondary Education. Joint BPE/CSPAC meeting July 2016, Joint meeting with Council of Deans October 2016.

3) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teachers' licenses and the appeals process.
   a. As funding permits attend NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute.
   b. Work with OPI Licensure staff on updates of Administrative Rules. – completed October 2016.

4) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education regarding establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct.
   a. Work with OPI to develop a framework for professional development based on best practices.
   b. As funding permits, attend NASDTEC Professional Practices Institute.
   c. 5 year review of the Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics (To begin January 2024). – completed and approved July 2016.
   d. CSPAC will study the process utilized in Montana for reviewing cases of suspension, revocation and denial of educator licensure.
5) Study and make recommendations to the Board of Public Education on the status and efficacy of alternative and/or nontraditional teacher preparation opportunities.
   a. Complete semi-annual reviews of Class 8 Dual Credit-Only Post Secondary Faculty License applications. - ongoing.
   b. Gather information about diploma mills and find ways to inform teachers of this and other forms of fraud.
   c. Continue the awareness that issues such as distance learning, dual enrollment, alternative certification models, etc. are multi-faceted and inter-related concepts that cannot be viewed in isolation from one another.
   d. Continued involvement in the implementation of Graduation Matters Montana and Montana Content standards. – ongoing.

Other CSPAC Activities:

CSPAC to monitor any teacher licensure issues that may emerge from the implementation of distance learning programs (Montana Digital Academy).

CSPAC to participate in the School Staffing Project to develop a new state data system to track school staffing patterns in Montana.

Solicit input from the Board of Public Education and the Council of Deans regarding research priorities for CSPAC for 2016-2017.
On Wednesday July 13, 2016, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met at the Montana State Capitol building for their regularly scheduled meeting. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

Currently serving on the Council are: Chair, Dr. Cindy O’Dell, Department head, Education Department, Salish Kootenai College; Vice Chair, Mr. Kelly Elder, Teacher, Helena, Ms. Debbie Hendricks, 9-12 Teacher, Hellgate High School Missoula; Ms. Sabrina Steketee, Trustee, Boulder; Dr. Rob Watson, Bozeman Public Schools, Administrator; Ms. Leanne Yenny, K-8 Teacher, Bozeman; Ms. Noreen Burris, Specialist, Billings.

Meeting attendees included: Dr. Cindy O’Dell; Mr. Kelly Elder; Ms. Debbie Hendricks; Ms. Sabrina Steketee; Dr. Rob Watson; Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Mr. Dan Rask, Small Schools Alliance; Ms. Katy Wright, Helena Public Schools; Ms. Susan Harper-Whalen, University of Montana; Ms. Kristi Murphy, University of Montana; Ms. Jael Prezeau, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Mr. TJ Eyer, OPI; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, MSU Billings. Also present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

CSPAC Meeting
July 13, 2016

Executive Committee Report
The Council reappointed Dr. O’Dell as Chair and Mr. Kelly Elder as Vice Chair. The Council also made committee assignments, set the 2016-2017 meeting calendar, and approved the goals as presented.

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Donovan reviewed the upcoming afternoon joint meeting of the BPE and the CSPAC, discussed items to be presented to the BPE at their meeting including the request for approval of the new Health Enhancement Standards and the Arts Standards. Mr. Donovan also reviewed the final meeting of the School Funding Interim Commission.

NASDTEC Conference Report
Ms. Burris gave an update on the NASDTEC Conference she attended in June. The overarching theme of the conference was teacher recruitment and retention, a national issue as well as an issue within the state of Montana.

CLASS 8 License Applications
The Council reviewed 7 applications for Class 8 Licensure. The Council approved 4 applications and returned 3 for additional information.

Approval to Recommend to the BPE for Initial Review, Proposed Revisions to ARM Title 10, Chapter 57, Educator Licensure
The Council reviewed the proposed changes from the Office of Public Instruction to the Chapter 57 Educator Licensure Rules and voted unanimously to move the recommendations on to the Board of Public Education for their review.

Approve Montana Professional Educator Code of Ethics
The Council voted unanimously to approve the new Montana Professional Educator Code of Ethics.

Future Agenda Items
On Tuesday October 4, 2016, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met at the University of Montana-Western for their regularly scheduled meeting and the annual joint meeting with the Council of Deans of Education. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

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Meeting attendees included: Ms. Ann Gilkey, OPI; Mr. Dennis Parman, MREA; Ms. Diane Burke, MQEC; Mr. Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT; Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Mr. Dan Rask, Small Schools Alliance; Ms. Katy Wright, Helena Public Schools; Ms. Susan Harper-Whalen, University of Montana; Ms. Kristi Murphy, University of Montana; Ms. Jael Prezeau, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Mr. TJ Eyer, OPI; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, MSU Billings. Also present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton, and Mr. Rob Stutz, Agency Legal Services.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Council reviewed the By-Laws and made no changes to the existing document other than the review date change for the Code of Ethics.

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Donovan updated the Council on the September Board of Public Education meeting in Bozeman hosted by Dr. Watson and the Bozeman Public Schools. Chapter 57, the Intensive Assistance Process, and the Content Standards Revision Cycle were highlighted.

PHYLISS J WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PROPOSES TO ADD SECONDARY EDUCATION TEACHING MINOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCES

The University of Montana presented to the Council their proposal to add a Secondary Education teaching minor in Computer Sciences.

CONTENT STANDARDS REVISION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

Ms. Prezeau reviewed the proposed revisions to the Content Standards Revisions Schedule, which had an initial presentation to the BPE in September and will be up for approval in November. The Council suggested changing the schedule for English and Math so that they do not happen at the same time. Ms. Prezeau agreed with the suggestion and will make the change.

REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 57, EDUCATOR LICENSURE

The Council was presented with a request from the Board of Public Education to review three proposed changes to the Chapter 57 revisions from the Montana Public Education Center. The three requests were for: 1) add an endorsement for P-12 Autism, 2) waive 3 years of teaching experience to a Superintendent Endorsement in lieu of 5 years of experience as an administrator for out of state applicants 3) to add the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education to the definitions. After careful consideration the Council agreed to recommend to the BPE the Autism Endorsement request and the Superintendent endorsement request. The Council did not move forward to the BPE the addition of MACTE to the Chapter 57 definitions.

CLASS 8 LICENSE APPLICATIONS

The Council reviewed 8 applications for Class 8 Licensure and approved all 8 applications.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Class 8 License applications.
Highlights of the February 8, 2017 CSPAC Meeting
Board of Public Education Conference Room
46 N Last Chance Gulch, Second Floor
Helena, MT

On Wednesday February 8, 2017, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met at the University of Montana-Western for their regularly scheduled meeting and the annual joint meeting with the Council of Deans of Education. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

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Meeting attendees included: Mr. Bob Vogel, MTSBA; Dr. Kirk Miller, SAM; Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Dr. Tim Tharp, Deputy Superintendent, OPI; Dr. Linda Peterson, OPI; Dr. Christine Lux, MSU-Bozeman. Also present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

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CSPAC Meeting
February 8, 2017

Executive Committee Report
Dr. O’Dell reviewed the most recent meeting of the Council of Dean’s and items discussed at the meeting including: CAEP Standards, PRAXIS Committee update, Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force updated, Title II reporting, and future meeting planning.

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Donovan reviewed the November 2016 and January 2017 Board of Public Education meetings with the Council, including updates on the adoption of the Chapter 57 Licensure rules, and the Critical Quality Educator Report at the November meeting.

RISE4Montana Report
Dr. Kirk Miller and Mr. Bob Vogel reviewed work the RISE4Montana project has been working on regarding teacher recruitment and retention issues across the state.

CLASS 8 License Applications
The Council reviewed 5 applications for Class 8 Licensure and approved all 8 applications.

Legislative Update
Mr. Donovan reviewed several bills pertaining to education making their way through the Legislature, most importantly HB 376 to create public charter schools.

Montana Minimum Scores for PRAXIS Subject Assessments
Dr. Peterson gave the Council an initial presentation of the minimum PRAXIS Subject Assessments which will be presented to the Board of Public Education for approval at their March meeting.

New Curricular Program Proposed: Montana State University, Department of Health and Human Development-Bachelor’s Degree and Endorsement in Early Childhood Education and Child Services, Preschool Through Grade 3.
Dr. Lux presented to the Council the proposed Bachelor’s Degree and Endorsement in Early Childhood Education and Child Services Preschool through grade 3. Dr. Lux answered questions from the Council. The program will be presented to the Board of Public Education in March.
Social Studies Steering Committee Report
Dr. Peterson updated the Council on the Social Studies Steering Committee, a sub-group of the PRAXIS workgroup, reviewing the PRAXIS test for Social Studies. Dr. Peterson answered Council questions before wrapping up her report.

Educator Licensure Report
Ms. Kristine Thatcher presented the Educator Licensure Report to the Council, as requested at the February 2017 meeting. Ms. Thatcher answered Council questions. The Council thanked her for the information.

Future Agenda Items
Class 8 License applications.
On Wednesday April 19, 2017, the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council met at the University of Montana-Western for their regularly scheduled meeting and the annual joint meeting with the Council of Deans of Education. The Certification Advisory Council, created by the 1987 Montana Legislature, is composed of seven members and meets quarterly. The CSPAC makes recommendations to the Board of Public Education concerning licensure issues, professional practices, and ethical conduct for educators in Montana.

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Meeting attendees included: Dr. Linda Vrooman Peterson, OPI; Ms. Kristine Thatcher, OPI; Dr. Tim Tharp, Deputy Superintendent, OPI; Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI; Mr. Jake Warner, OPI; Ms. Angela McLean, OCHE. Also present were BPE Executive Director Mr. Pete Donovan, BPE Administrative Assistant Ms. Kris Stockton.

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CSPAC Meeting
April 19, 2017

Executive Committee Report
The draft 2016 CSPAC Annual Report was reviewed by the Council. The Council approved the draft.

Board of Public Education Report/Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Donovan thanked Chair O’Dell for her past 6 years of service on the Council in addition to her hard work as the Dean of the College of Education at Salish Kootenai College. Mr. Donovan presented Dr. O’Dell with a gift as a thank you for her work, wishing her well in her endeavors at Salish Kootenai College. Mr. Donovan then briefed the Council on a couple of legislative items, specifically thanking Dr. Rob Watson for his testimony before both House Ed and Senate Ed in opposition to HB 376 creating public charter schools. Also discussed was the upcoming BPE meeting in Great Falls in May.

Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force Update
Ms. Angela McLean from the Commissioner of Higher Education Office also thanked Dr. O’Dell for her service. Ms. McLean then discussed for the Council the reasons behind the Commissioner creating the Task Force, discussed members on the Task Force, work done to date, and upcoming projects the Task Force will be working through.

Governor’s K-12 Computer Science Convening
Mr. Kelly Elder reviewed the recent conference on Computer Science he attended with Mr. Jake Warner from OPI, and Ms. Buffy Smith from the Helena Public Schools. Mr. Warner then discussed how other states handle Computer Science in their states, and discussed the importance of Montana adopting Computer Science Standards in the future. Ms. Colet Bartow, OPI, discussed the Teacher Learning Hub on the OPI website and how that could be utilized as a professional development course on Computer Science in the classroom for teachers to access. The topic of licensure flexibility was discussed and the Council asked that this topic be researched and brought back as an item for the July 2017 meeting.

Class 8 License applications.
**Legislative Update**
Mr. Donovan reviewed several bills pertaining to education making their way through the Legislature, most importantly HB 376 to create public charter schools. Mr. Donovan also noted that current Board Members Lacey and Barnhart were confirmed as well as newly appointed Board member Anne Keith receiving confirmation.

**CLASS 8 License Applications**
The Council reviewed 6 applications for Class 8 Licensure approving 5 applications, and returning 1 application for additional information.

**Future Agenda Items**
Class 8 License applications.