

PTPC Winter Newsletter

2012

PTPC
STATE OF ALASKA
WINTER 2012

Responsibilities of Educators Holding Alaskan Certificates:

- Adhere to the Alaska Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.
- Notify the Department of Education & Early Development of name and/or any address changes (4AAC 12.415).
- Know your certificate's effective and expiration dates. Your effective date is the date the complete application packet is received by Teacher Education and Certification. (The Department of Education & Early Development does not notify individuals of impending expiration dates.)
- Meet renewal requirements before your certificate expires.
- Keep current about any changes in certification regulations.
- Notify a school district within 90 days of hire, of any sick leave that you expect to transfer from previous employment. (AS 14.14.107) Sick leave can only be transferred if the teacher's service has been continuous within the Alaska public school system. Continuous service is defined as up to the last day of a school term and beginning within 30 days of the start of the next school term.

Inside this issue:

Responsibilities of Educators	1
Commission Action	2
Certificate Renewal Requirements	3
Awards	4



COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Dr. Linda Black (Chair)**
Higher Ed Representative
- Michael Husa (Vice Chair)**
Teacher Representative
- Cindy L. Aillaud (Secretary)**
Teacher Representative
- Jill Exe**
Teacher Representative
- Jeff Hebard**
Teacher Representative
- Eric Fry**
DEED Representative
- Richard Lum**
Teacher Representative
- Lou Pondolfino**
Principal Representative
- Patricia Truman**
Executive Director
- Atiya Barlow**
Administrative Assistant



What Happens When Your Certificate Expires?

A current, valid Alaska teacher certificate is required to teach in Alaska and in order to pay into the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). When a certificate expires, a teacher cannot be the certified teacher in a classroom or pay into TRS.

When a certificate lapses, the licensee goes into a reinstatement period for one year. This **does not** allow you to be a teacher in a classroom but **does** give you grandfather rights. Should you not be able to complete whatever requirements are necessary, and the lapse in certification lasts more than a year, you lose all grandfather rights and become an initial certification applicant. This means you will have to meet any requirements you have not previously met, e.g., Praxis I reading, writing, and math in order to be fully certified in Alaska.

A lapse in certification will affect your Teacher Retirement service credit, since you cannot pay into the system unless you hold a current, valid Alaska teacher certificate.

When Teacher Certification learns of a lapsed certificate, your district will be notified, the Teacher Retirement System will be notified, and the Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) will be notified. When your certificate is reinstated, Teacher Certification will notify your district, TRS, and the PTPC that your certificate is current and valid and that you are in compliance with Alaska statutes requiring a current, valid teaching certificate.

The Professional Teaching Practices Commission will meet in general session **January 31 and April 23, 2012**. Commission meetings are held in the Willawa conference room of the Alaska State Library. 344 West 3rd Avenue in Anchorage. Meetings are open to the public.

"Don't say anything online that you wouldn't want plastered on a billboard with your face on it."

~ Erin Bury ~

COMMISSION ACTION

During its January 2011 meeting:

- the Commission suspended the Alaska Teacher Certificate of Adam Bode for one-year effective January 25, 2011.
- the Commission issued a reprimand to Hans Werner.
- the Commission conducted administrative reviews of staff's decisions to dismiss three (3) cases. Staff's decisions to dismiss were upheld in all three (3) cases.

During its April 2011 meeting:

- the Commission issued a one-year suspension of the certificate of Casey A. Spurlock effective December 30, 2010.
- the Commission issued a 7.5 month suspension of the certificate of Heath Day effective October 4, 2010.
- the Commission issued a reprimand to Adelina C. San Ramon.
- the Commission agreed to the Revocation for Life of the Alaska Teacher Certificate of Christopher A. More.
- the Commission suspended the teacher certificate of Dawn Simon for one year effective April 22, 2010.
- the Commission suspended the teacher certificate of Brittany D. Seabury for one year effective April 22, 2010.
- the Commission conducted administrative reviews of staff's decisions to dismiss five (5) cases. Staff's decisions to dismiss were upheld in all five (5) cases.

During its October 2011 meeting:

- the Commission approved a Petition of Reinstatement for Roberta (Borne) Armstrong.
- the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Teacher certificate and the Administrative certificate of Ronald E. Friehe.
- the Commission issued a reprimand to Jerome D. Grogan.
- the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Teacher certificate of Grant R. Cochran.
- the Commission agreed to the Revocation for Life of the Teacher Certificate of Sheree G. Buchanan.
- the Commission suspended the teacher certificate of Katherine Kysar for one year effective May 20, 2011.
- the Commission suspended the teacher certificate of Marsha A. Bailey for one year effective May 20, 2011.
- the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Type M certificate of Daniel D. Page.
- the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Teacher Certificate of Shawn D. Mercer.
- the Commission issued a reprimand to Lester W. McCormick.
- the Commission issued a reprimand to Linda M. Sims.
- the Commission conducted administrative reviews of staff's decisions to dismiss three (3) cases. Staff's decisions to dismiss were upheld in all three (3) cases.

NOTICE!

Commission staff is available to provide presentations on the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession and the role of the Commission. The presentation includes discussions regarding professionalism and professional responsibilities.

Contact the Professional Teaching Practices Commission at 907-269-6579 to arrange presentations in your district.



"Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition."

~Jacques Barzun~

Amended Certificate Renewal Requirements Adopted



At its June 2011 meeting, the Alaska State School Board made revision to 4 AAC 12.405, changing the requirements for the renewal of a five or ten-year certificate. For those certificates with an issue date of September 2, 2011 or later, the required six renewal credits must be:

1. Related to the certificated person's employment at the time of renewal, if that employment requires a certificate;
2. Related to the certificated person's endorsement area(s); or
3. A required element of a program that will lead to an additional endorsement

The new requirements will only apply to renewable certificates with an issue date of September 2, 2011 or later. Certificates being renewed with an issue date prior to September 2, 2011 will not be required to comply with the new requirements.

If you have a certificate with an issue date of September 2, 2011, or later, and are concerned that a course you are planning to take for renewal credit may not meet the requires listed above, you may request pre-approval by using the form located at http://www.eed.state.ak.us/teachercertification/forms/renewal_preapproval_request.pdf.

The previous renewal requirements are still in effect. Six semester or nine quarter hours of credit is required for renewal of all five and ten year certificates. Of those required credits, three semester or five quarter credits must be upper division or graduate coursework earned from a regionally accredited university. The remaining three credits can be any combination of coursework earned from a regionally accredited university, continuing education units, or with prior approval, non-academic credit.

Additional requirement for the Professional Teacher Certification Adopted

The Alaska State School Board has revised regulation 4 AAC 12.305 to require applicants for a Professional teacher certificate to have at least two years of employment as a teacher while holding a valid teacher certificate issued by a state. As of September 17, 2011, individuals applying for a Professional certificate must satisfy this additional requirement. If the requirement is not met, the applicant may qualify for a Second Initial teacher certificate. The two years of employment requirement does not apply to applicants for Professional certification that hold a current Initial teacher certificate which was valid on September 17, 2011.



Applicants holding Alaska certification required to list all previous Alaska employment

Effective September 2, 2011, all Alaska school districts are required to include a section on their certified position applications that request a list of all Alaska public school districts where the applicant has been employed. If an applicant failed to include this information on the employment application, the applicant would be in violation of the code of ethics adopted by the Professional Teacher Practices Commission.

University of Alaska Electronic Transcripts Accepted

The Teacher Certification office is now accepting electronic transcripts issued by the University of Alaska. Individuals who currently hold an Alaska teacher certificate may submit electronic transcripts by following the directions available at <http://www.eed.state.ak.us/teachercertification/transcripts.html>. Electronic transcripts must be emailed to tcwebmail@alaska.gov.

Online Renewal Available

Alaska teachers, administrators, or special service providers who hold a certificate which is eligible for renewal or reinstatement may complete most of the renewal process online. In order to be eligible to use the online renewal system, an individual must hold a renewable certificate that will expire within the next year or has expired less than a year ago. The Online Renewal System is available at <https://www.eed.state.ak.us/teachercertification/onlinerenewal>.

Spotlight

ALASKA TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development named **Cara Heitz**, a science and health teacher at Cordova Jr./Sr. High School, Alaska Teacher of the Year 2012 at a presentation during the annual conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards in Anchorage.

Scott McKim, a teacher of science, math and applied technology at Begich Middle School in the Anchorage School District, was named Alternate Teacher of the Year 2012.

MILKEN AWARD:

Matthew "Mark" Elfstrom received the 2011 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award for Alaska. Elfstrom teaches seventh-grade math at Romig Middle School in the Anchorage School District.

ALASKA PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR:

The Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals selected **Lisa Zelenkov**, principal of Central Middle School of Science in the Anchorage School District, as the Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year.

Karen Gaborik, principal of Lathrop High School in the Fairbanks School District, was chosen as Alaska High School Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

Timothy Doran, principal of Denali Elementary School in the Fairbanks School District, was named a National Distinguished Principal 2011 by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals.

ALASKA SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR:

The Alaska Association of School Administrators announced that **Jim Nygaard** has been selected by his peers as Alaska's Superintendent of the Year. Mr. Nygaard arrived in Alaska as the Southeast Island School District superintendent in 2004, serving until 2008 when he was selected as the Cordova City School District superintendent.

If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job.

~Donald D. Quinn~

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“Take out your phones. Open the American History app and turn to the page about George Washington.”