

# Professional Teaching Standards Board

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## Mission and philosophy

The Mission of the Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) is to ensure every student is served by competent, ethical educators who meet rigorous performance standards. Its charge is to protect the residents by providing regulations for public school personnel in Wyoming. The PTSB acts in accordance with the highest standards of ethics, accountability, efficiency and openness. The Board strives to provide firm and fair regulations with efficient and effective service.

## Major accomplishments and efficiencies

The Professional Teaching Standards Board has 21,829 (August 2005) active files for teachers, substitutes, administrators, auxiliary professional services and other certified or permitted personnel. The Board has made a strong commitment to alternative certification, while assisting school districts in shortage areas for teachers. During 2004-2005 the Board granted 29 temporary permits, 65 transitional endorsements, 147 collaboration certificates, 38 internship permits and 12 exception certificates. This represents four percent of the total teaching population in Wyoming.

The Board is aware of the aging teaching force in Wyoming and tracks data, such as the aging population of teachers by endorsements, which is shared with the school districts and education organizations. The PTSB adopted an updated reciprocity agreement through National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) which recognizes programs in 49 states. It has membership on the state special education task force working towards new ways to recruit and train teachers.

The PTSB is in its third year of the partnership with Northern Plains Transition to Teaching Program (NPTT) at Montana State University-Bozeman. This federal grant is giving financial assistance to Wyoming teachers, who are teaching in high needs school districts while taking course work for full certification. PTSB is the financial manager for the \$14,000 grant. Enrollments in the 2005-2006 school year are 20 with a total of 35 teachers in the program. To date, 14 Wyoming teachers have completed the NPTT certification program.

In conjunction with NPTT the PTSB formed another partnership with the Western States Certification Consortium (WSCC) of 11 states. The objective is to identify appropriate, portable distance-delivered alterna-

### General information

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### Agency contact

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### Year established

1993

### Statutory references

Wyoming Statute 21-2-801 and 21-2-802

### Authorized personnel

Full-time: Six

### Clients served

Teachers, administrators, auxiliary professional services, substitute teachers, coaches, and permitted individuals.

### Budget information

Fund 111 ..... \$464,111

### Agency to which group reports

Department of Administration and Information

### Number of members

Thirteen

### Meeting frequency

The Board meets four times per year, not less than once every three months.

tive pathways to meet special education teacher licensure within the participating states.

Technology enhancements occurred during the 2004-2005 year. The PTSB implemented a new software program which tracks PTSB's clients and has an improved data collection system to comply with No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The system shortens the processing time for certificates, which are now printed daily along with reports which are sent to school districts.

The PTSB shows compliance to the NCLB requirements for highly qualified teachers, which includes the development, adoption, and implementation of a highly qualified HOUSS rubric for special education teachers who are currently teaching secondary in Wyoming. The rubric is a means for teachers to show competence in elementary and subject core areas. Also, as compliance to NCLB rules, PTSB started testing initial teachers with a no fault provision for one-year and the cut score has been adopted to implement fall 2005. Additionally, PTSB started to review initial teacher tests for music, physical and health education and endorsements for middle level teachers in mathematics, language arts, science and social studies.

In support of Senate Enrolled Act 33 and with a subsidy grant from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), the PTSB administered support for teachers seeking national board certification. The PTSB continues to sponsor the subsidy grant and facilitate with the teachers going through national board certification. To date, 52 Wyoming teachers have received NBPTS certification, including the four teachers who received it November 2004. With the 2005 legislation, supporting NBPTS activities and Ellbogen Foundation's matching funds, which includes the hiring of a coordinator for the program, there is an increased awareness of the program throughout the state. As of July 31, 2005, 68 teachers have enrolled as candidates for 2005-2006.

The PTSB continues to evaluate and approve workshops (204) and school district staff development plans (31) for renewal credits, review and investigate reports of FBI and State criminal background checks, evaluate and monitor teacher education programs, assess certification by portfolio and remains a member of the National Clearinghouse and Interstate Compact for reciprocity with other states.

## **Strategic plan changes**

The Board finished its first of three years of working on the major goal for its strategic plan to review and revise the current PTSB Rules and Regulations to streamline the certification requirements and process. Next year, committees will assist the Board in revising the program approval standards for certification.