

Applicant Social Security Number: _____

SECTION IV-BACKGROUND

Read and answer each question *carefully*...ensure that you have selected the appropriate check box. Incorrectly checking a box may significantly delay the processing of your application. Please refer to the instruction sheet for further information.

1. Have you ever been the subject of a child abuse investigation or report in this or any other state, territory or country? (If yes, read the instructions for this question first, then indicate whether the investigation or report is pending, unfounded, indicated, or founded by checking the appropriate box)	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded <input type="checkbox"/> Indicated <input type="checkbox"/> Founded <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Are you currently the subject of any misconduct investigation by an employer? (If yes, refer to instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Have you ever resigned from or otherwise left any employment (e.g., settlement agreement) while allegations of misconduct were pending, or under investigation? (If yes, refer to instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Is there disciplinary action pending by a licensing agency in this or any other state, territory or country? (If yes, refer to instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Have you ever had any certificate or license for any profession denied, revoked, suspended, surrendered, or received a public reprimand in this or any other state, territory or country? (If yes, refer to instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Have you ever been convicted of a crime classified as a misdemeanor or felony in this state or any other state, territory or country? (If yes, refer to instructions.) <i>(For purposes of this question, convicted includes pleas of nolo contendere and guilty pleas. However, summary offenses do not need to be acknowledged.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Are criminal charges pending against you, or are you the subject of an inquiry or investigation by a law enforcement agency in this or any other state, territory or country? (If yes, refer to instructions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

SECTION V-CODE OF CONDUCT

The Pennsylvania code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators, which may be found on the PDE website, sets forth the standards for professional practice for Pennsylvania professional educators. All professional educators are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code. Failure to do so may result in professional discipline. Indicate that you have read the code by checking the box below. *See pp. 5-6 for this document.*

I certify that I have read and will abide by the Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators.

SECTION VI-AFFIDAVIT

I certify that the information provided in this application, including all statements, transcripts and documentation, are correct and true. I understand that the falsification of any statement or document may result in professional discipline, including revocation of my Pennsylvania certificate.

Signature of Applicant

Date

PDE 338 G (Revised 12/10)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL APPLICATION - FORM PDE 338 G
PRINT WITH DARK BLUE OR BLACK INK

SECTION I: Personal Information

1. Print your Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial
2. Print your Social Security Number
3. Print your complete Address and Zip Code
4. Print your Date of Birth
5. Check the appropriate box for male, or female
6. Print your telephone numbers in the event you must be contacted
7. Print your current e-mail address
8. Print your former names, if applicable
9. Please state your citizenship status by checking the "yes" or "no" box. If you are not a U.S citizen, you must enclose the following documents with your application:
 - A copy of the front and back of your permanent resident visa, which permits you to permanently reside and work in the United States.
 - A *Declaration of Intent to Become a Citizen of the United States* form. This form is included in the Foreign Supplement Package available from the PDE website at: www.education.state.pa.us. This does not apply to Foreign Language teachers.
 - If you have become a citizen since submitting your last application, you must return your original Alien Provisional Certificate as well as a copy of your U.S. Naturalization Paper for conversion.

If the documentation noted above is not submitted with the PDE 338 G form, the application will be returned to you.

SECTION II: Certification Information

1. Enter the Month/Year, name of degree, and college from which you received your initial bachelor's degree. Do not list information regarding Masters or Doctorate degrees.
2. **DO NOT COMPLETE THIS SECTION.**

SECTION III: Health Certificate

A U.S. licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner must sign the Health Certificate section of this application. The Health Certificate section is not required if the applicant holds, or has held, a PA certificate including Emergency Permits or Temporary Teaching Permits.

SECTION IV: Background

Please note: Incorrectly answering the any questions in Section IV may significantly delay the processing of your application.

1. If you have answered "pending", "unfounded," "founded" or "indicated" you must provide a current, original Child Abuse Clearance from the state, territory or country in which the investigation or report occurred, and a signed letter of explanation with your application. If you have never been the subject of a child abuse investigation or report, select the "no" box.
2. If you have answered "yes" a signed letter of explanation, as well as any public documentation pertaining to the disciplinary action must be submitted with this application.
3. If you have answered "yes" a signed letter of explanation, as well as any documentation pertaining to the disciplinary action, termination, investigation, or resignation, must be submitted with this application.
4. If you have answered "yes" a signed letter of explanation, as well as any public documentation pertaining to the disciplinary action must be submitted with this application.

5. If you have answered "yes" you will not be automatically prevented from obtaining a PA certificate. A certification denial based on insufficient credentials (such as lack of coursework or test scores) does *not* need to be acknowledged. Any documentation pertaining to the denial, revocation, suspension, surrender, or reprimand must be submitted with this application.
6. If you have answered "yes" please include the following in your application (A YES answer does not automatically prevent an applicant from obtaining a PA certificate):
 - a signed letter of explanation;
 - your resume;
 - certified court documents related to all criminal matters;
 - a current, original FBI Clearance or registration identification number;
 - a current, original PA Criminal Background Check;
 - a current, original PA Child Abuse Clearance;
 - a letter from your probation officer, if applicable; and
 - five letters of reference from individuals who have direct knowledge related to the conduct that led to the charges or conviction. If you are currently employed by a school district, letters of reference from the employer or supervisor are recommended.
7. If you have answered "yes" please attach the additional documentation as listed above.

SECTION V: Code of Conduct

The Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators may be found at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/guidelines%2C_policies%2C_complaint_forms%2C_reports_and_related_documents/8850/code_of_conduct/529193. Review the code and check the box indicating that you have read and will abide by the Pennsylvania's Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators.

SECTION VI: Affidavit

Complete the Affidavit section by Signing and dating the application. Your signature certifies that all of the information provided in the application is correct and true. Misrepresentation/falsification may result in professional discipline and the revocation of your Pennsylvania certificate.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

The primary reason for delays in processing certification applications is missing or incomplete information on the 338 G form and/or missing documentation. **If there is missing or incomplete information, and/or missing documentation, your application will not be processed and will be returned to you. All signatures and corresponding dates must be within one year of application submission.**

Before mailing, review the application and ensure:

- The information entered on the 338 G form is complete and accurate (*ensure that you have enclosed both pages of the 338 G form*)
- A U.S. licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner has signed the form, if applicable
- All required documentation is enclosed
- The 338 G form has been signed and dated

PENNSYLVANIA'S CODE OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CONDUCT FOR EDUCATORS

Section 1. Mission

The Professional Standards and Practices Commission is committed to providing leadership for improving the quality of education in this Commonwealth by establishing high standards for preparation, certification, practice and ethical conduct in the teaching profession.

Section 2. Introduction

(a) Professional conduct defines interactions between the individual educator and students, the employing agencies and other professionals. Generally, the responsibility for professional conduct rests with the individual professional educator. However, in this Commonwealth, a Code of Professional Practice and Conduct (Code) for certificated educators is required by statute and violation of specified sections of the Code may constitute a basis for public or private reprimand. Violations of the Code may also be used as supporting evidence, though may not constitute an independent basis, for the suspension or revocation of a certificate. The Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC) was charged by the act of December 12, 1973 (P. L. 397, No.

141) (24 P. S. § 12-1251—12-1268), known as the Teacher Certification Law, with adopting a Code by July 1, 1991. See 24 P. S. § 12-1255(a)(10).
(b) This chapter makes explicit the values of the education profession. When individuals become educators in this Commonwealth, they make a moral commitment to uphold these values.

Section 3. Purpose

(a) Professional educators in this Commonwealth believe that the quality of their services directly influences the Nation and its citizens. Professional educators recognize their obligation to provide services and to conduct themselves in a manner which places the highest esteem on human rights and dignity. Professional educators seek to ensure that every student receives the highest quality of service and that every professional maintains a high level of competence from entry through ongoing professional development. Professional educators are responsible for the development of sound educational policy and obligated to implement that policy and its programs to the public.
(b) Professional educators recognize their primary responsibility to the student and the development of the student's potential. Central to that development is the professional educator's valuing the worth and dignity of every person, student and colleague alike; the pursuit of truth; devotion to excellence; acquisition of knowledge; and democratic principles. To

those ends, the educator engages in continuing professional development and keeps current with research and technology. Educators encourage and support the use of resources that best serve the interests and needs of students. Within the context of professional excellence, the educator and student together explore the challenge and the dignity of the human experience.

Section 4. Practices

(a) Professional practices are behaviors and attitudes that are based on a set of values that the professional education community believes and accepts. These values are evidenced by the professional educator's conduct toward students and colleagues, and the educator's employer and community. When teacher candidates become professional educators in this Commonwealth, they are expected to abide by this section.

(b) Professional educators are expected to abide by the following:

(1) Professional educators shall abide by the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P. S. § 1-101—27-2702), other school laws of the Commonwealth, sections 1201(a)(1), (2) and (4) and (b)(1), (2) and (4) of the Public Employe Relations Act (43 P. S. § 1101.1201(a)(1), (2) and (4) and (b)(1), (2) and (4)) and this chapter.
(2) Professional educators shall be prepared, and legally certified, in their areas of assignment. Educators may not be assigned or willingly accept assignments they are not certified to fulfill.

Educators may be assigned to or accept assignments outside their certification area on a temporary, short-term, emergency basis. Examples: a teacher certified in English filling in a class period for a physical education teacher who has that day become ill; a substitute teacher certified in elementary education employed as a librarian for several days until the district can locate and employ a permanent substitute teacher certified in library science.

(3) Professional educators shall maintain high levels of competence throughout their careers.

(4) Professional educators shall exhibit consistent and equitable treatment of students, fellow educators and parents. They shall respect the civil rights of all and not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, culture, religion, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, age, political beliefs, socioeconomic status, disabling condition or vocational interest. This list of bases or discrimination is not all-inclusive.

(5) Professional educators shall accept the value of diversity in educational practice. Diversity requires educators to have a range of methodologies and to request the necessary tools for effective teaching and learning.

(6) Professional educators shall impart to their students principles of good citizenship and societal responsibility.
(7) Professional educators shall exhibit acceptable and professional language and communication skills. Their verbal and

written communications with parents, students and staff shall reflect sensitivity to the fundamental human rights of dignity, privacy and respect.

(8) Professional educators shall be open-minded, knowledgeable and use appropriate judgment and communication skills when responding to an issue within the educational environment.

(9) Professional educators shall keep in confidence information obtained in confidence in the course of professional service unless required to be disclosed by law or by clear and compelling professional necessity as determined by the professional educator.

(10) Professional educators shall exert reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with learning or are harmful to the student's health and safety.

Section 5. Conduct

Individual professional conduct reflects upon the practices, values, integrity and reputation of the profession. Violation of § 235.8—235.11 may constitute an independent basis for private or public reprimand, and may be used as supporting evidence in cases of certification suspension and revocation.

Section 6. Legal obligations

(a) The professional educator may not engage in conduct prohibited by the act of December 12, 1973 (P. L. 397, No. 141) (24 P. S. § 12-1251—12-

1268), known as the Teacher Certification Law.

- (b) The professional educator may not engage in conduct prohibited by:
- (1) The Public School Code of 1949 (24 P. S. § 1-101—27-2702) and other laws relating to the schools or the education of children.
- (2) The applicable laws of the Commonwealth establishing ethics of public officials and public employees, including the act of October 4, 1978 (P. L. 883, No. 170) (65 P. S. § 401—413), known as the Public Official and Employee Ethics Law.
- (c) Violation of subsection (b) shall have been found to exist by an agency of proper jurisdiction to be considered an independent basis for discipline.

Section 7. Certification

The professional educator may not:

(1) Accept employment, when not properly certificated, in a position for which certification is required.

(2) Assist entry into or continuance in the education profession of an unqualified person.

(3) Employ, or recommend for employment, a person who is not certificated appropriately for the position.

Section 8. Civil Rights

The professional educator may not:

(1) Discriminate on the basis of race, National or ethnic origin, culture, religion, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, age, political beliefs, socioeconomic

status; disabling condition or vocational interest against a student or fellow professional. This list of bases of discrimination is not all-inclusive. This discrimination shall be found to exist by an agency of proper jurisdiction to be considered an independent basis for discipline.

(2) Interfere with a student's or colleague's exercise of political and civil rights and responsibilities.

Section 9. Improper personal or financial gain

The professional educator may not:

(1) Accept gratuities, gifts or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment.

(2) Exploit a professional relationship for personal gain or advantage.

Section 10. Relationships with students

The professional educator may not:

(1) Knowingly and intentionally distort or misrepresent evaluations of students.

(2) Knowingly and intentionally misrepresent subject matter or curriculum.

(3) Sexually harass or engage in sexual relationships with students.

(4) Knowingly and intentionally withhold evidence from the proper authorities about violations of the legal obligations as defined within this section.

Section 11. Professional relationships

The professional educator may not:

(1) Knowingly and intentionally deny or impede a colleague in the exercise or enjoyment of a professional right or privilege in being an educator.

(2) Knowingly and intentionally distort evaluations of colleagues.

(3) Sexually harass a fellow employee.

(4) Use coercive means or promise special treatment to influence professional decisions of colleagues.

(5) Threaten, coerce or discriminate against a colleague who in good faith reports or discloses to a governing agency actual or suspected violations of law, agency regulations or standards.

The Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Educators can be found at 22 Pa. Code §§235.1 - 235.11.

All questions should be directed to the Professional Standards and Practices Commission at (717) 787-6576.