8. Glossary

Act— The Public School Code of 1949 (24 P. S. § § 1-101—27-2702).

Approved educator certification program— Courses and experiences offered by a preparing institution then reviewed and approved by the Department of Education.

Articulation agreement— A formal agreement between two higher educational institutions, stating specific policies relating to transfer and recognition of academic achievement to facilitate the successful transfer of students without duplication of course work.

Assessment of basic skills— Measurement of a candidate's ability to communicate orally and in writing and to demonstrate proficiency in fundamental computational skills.

Assessment of general knowledge— Measurement of a candidate's knowledge in the fields of literature, mathematics, the sciences and social studies.

Assessment of professional knowledge and practice— Measurement of a candidate's knowledge of educational theory, principles of human growth and development, educational psychology and other subjects directly related to educational practice and their application/demonstration in school settings.

Assessment of subject matter— Measurement of a candidate's knowledge of an academic field or discipline to be taught in the public schools of this Commonwealth.

Candidate— Person seeking certification in any of the areas outlined in this chapter.

Certificate— Document prepared and issued by the Department indicating that the holder has completed an approved professional preparation program and is qualified to perform specific professional duties.

Chief school administrator— The Superintendent, intermediate unit Executive Director, AVTS/CTC Vocational Director, Chief School Officer/CEO (charter school) or equivalent private school administrator.

Collegiate studies— Studies offered at colleges or universities.

Commissioned officer— District superintendents and assistant district superintendents.

Community provider— A not-for-profit or for-profit organization that operates prekindergarten programs.

Continuing professional education— Formal achievement of collegiate or in-service credits designed to improve and expand the expertise of professional personnel.

Core academic subject— Includes reading, language arts, mathematics, science, world languages, social

studies, music and art.

Day-to-day substitute permit— Permit issued for no longer than 20 consecutive days to fill a position due to the absence of professional certified personnel.

Degree-granting institution— Public college or technical institute which provides a 2 year, postsecondary college-parallel, terminal-general, terminal-technical, out-of-school youth or adult education program or a combination of these and which is established and operated under the act.

Diverse learner— Student who because of limited English language proficiency or disabilities may have academic needs that require varied instructional strategies to help the student learn.

Educational specialist— Professional certified personnel whose primary responsibility is to render professional service other than classroom teaching, such as dental hygienist, home and school visitor, instructional technology specialist, social restoration specialist, nutrition service specialist, elementary counselor, secondary counselor, school nurse and school psychologist.

Emergency permit—Permit issued to fill a vacancy resulting from resignation, termination, retirement, death or the creation of a new position.

Exceptional case permit—Permit issued to fill a vacancy due to exceptional conditions.

Inclusive setting—Placement of a diverse learner in a regular classroom setting.

Induction— Process where newly employed educators and educational specialists are put under guidance of professional personnel to assist entry into the education profession.

Induction plan—Description of the induction process developed and submitted by the school entity to the Department for approval which describes how an educator or educational specialist will be introduced to the educator profession under this chapter.

Intern certificate—Professional certificate that entitles the holder to fill a full-time professional teaching position.

Invalid certificate—Certificate which no longer enables its holder to perform specific professional duties.

Long-term substitute permit—Permit issued for an indeterminate period to fill a position due to the absence of professional certified personnel.

Occupational competency credential—Document issued by the Occupational Competency Testing Examiners which signifies that the holder possesses knowledge and skill in a technical field at a journeyman level. When the document is presented to a preparing institution or to the Department, it may be registered by the Department on the holder's vocational intern, vocational instructional or instructional certificate, and it enables the holder to teach that occupational specialty.

PAsecureID - Unique, permanent, anonymous state-wide student ID assigned to all students upon their first entry into the Commonwealth public school system. A single, unique PAsecureID remains with an individual student throughout their educational career.

PPID – Professional Personnel Identification, a unique, permanent identifier provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to applicants using the Teacher Information Management System, TIMS. The PPID remains with an educator throughout their educational career.

PSPC—Professional Standards and Practices Commission—A body composed of educators from the fields of basic and higher education, members of the general public and an ex officio member of the Board established by the Professional Educator Discipline Act.

Permit—Document prepared and issued by the Department indicating that the holder is allowed to serve in lieu of a certified professional for a specified period of time.

Prekindergarten—Program operated by an early intervention agency, school district or under contract from a school district that is open to children who are 3 years of age and who have completed the program prior to the school district's entry age for kindergarten.

Preparing institution—College or university that offers a program approved by the Department to prepare professional personnel for employment in public schools.

Professional certified personnel—Professional employees including educators, supervisors, coordinators and administrators.

Professional duties— Duties restricted to professional personnel performing the extent of their certificate.

Professional Educator Discipline Act—24 P. S. § § 2070 1a—2070.18a.

Satisfactory achievement—Acceptable level of performance as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Board on the Department-prescribed assessments required in this chapter.

School entity—Public schools, school districts, intermediate units, area vocational-technical schools, charter schools, cyber schools and independent schools.

Term of validity—Period of time as specified in which the holder of a certificate is entitled to perform the professional duties for which the certificate was issued.