

Executive Director's Notepad . . .

The Impact of the New State Rules on Your Certification Requirements



*From the desk of
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In mid-March we issued a special Alert regarding maintaining your principals certificate as it relates to new Act 45 requirements for principal training. As a result, we have had many inquiries and have directed many concerns to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The information we provided to members is important and useful, and if you have not read or followed the directions on our Alert, you should do so immediately. Therefore, we are including all the information from the Alert in this publication. Please take the time to check your status (PIL hours) at <https://www.perms.ed.state.pa.us/Screens/wfPublicAccess.aspx>.

Act 45 Alert

You must meet the new requirements by June 30, 2010 to maintain your principal's certification.

On January 1, 2008, new requirements to maintain your principal's certification were put in place by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Act 45 requires principals to have a certain blend of Act 48 and PIL hours (Act 45) in place to maintain certification. Many members have been confused by the change, and we want to make certain that you are sure to maintain your certification.

This alert is intended to address three basic concerns that each of you should have:

1. How do I know how many hours I have earned and be certain they are registered with the state?
2. How do I get PIL hours (Act 45) between now and June 30, 2010 if I need them, and what offerings are available from the state and other providers?
3. If I am unable to get into the courses/ programs that are offered, how do I request an extension?

We recommend that you take the following steps as soon as possible:

1. **Check the official number of hours the state has on record for you.**

This can be done by going to: <https://www.perms.ed.state.pa.us/Screens/wfPublicAccess.aspx>. You will need your Professional Personnel Identification number (PP ID number) or your Social Security number – instructions to obtain your PP ID number are available at this web site. In some cases, your human resources department may provide you with your number. Copy the state's official record of your hours – these will be divided into Act 48 hours and PIL hours (Act 45). It will indicate how many of each type of hours you need to maintain your certification before June 30, 2010. **PLEASE NOTE: PIL HOURS SATISFY YOUR ACT 48 REQUIREMENTS.**

Graduate credits (3 credits = 90 hours) obtained in a program leading to a letter of eligibility should count, however some universities have failed to place those courses on record and they do not appear as hours for you. In this case, you should alert PDE and your graduate school that the course needs to be added and that you should receive the appropriate hours.



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2. Locate opportunities to take the needed PIL hours (Act 45) from the state and/or other providers by:

State Offerings:

- Go to <http://www.pde.state.pa.us/PIL>
- Scroll down the page and find a regional map. Locate your region.
- Go to the left-hand side of the page and click on your region. A drop-down menu will appear — click on schedule. This takes you to a page where all of the free, state offerings are listed — complete with times, days, credits and contact information.
- Contact the person indicated to enroll in the course. *If the course is filled or not available, request that the contact person write you a letter affirming that you tried to enroll, but were unable to do so because it was filled or not offered.*
- There is a section on the PDE web site **on the PIL Act 45 web page** where you can read more about the law, the most frequently asked questions and/or address questions directly to PDE.

Other Provider Offerings:

- To find offerings from other providers, return to the center of the PA Inspired Leaders page and scroll down to the center of the page.
- New principals click on **Induction** and all Principals should click on **Continuing Education**. This is a list of all providers and programs qualifying for PIL credits.
- You may also call PAESSP, PASA and PASCD to find out details about what programs each is offering.

- Below is a direct link to PAESSP's 25-hour PIL (Act 45) workshop this summer July 27-29 in Gettysburg - Creating Learning Communities for Improved Student Achievement. **Click here to find out more (<http://www.paessp.org/Documents/LearningCommunitiesBrochure.pdf>).** **Click on this link to register on-line (<http://www.paessp.org/LearningCommunitiesForm.aspx>).**
- PAESSP will also be offering **two 25-hour PIL programs in conjunction with its state conference in State College at The Penn Stater Hotel on October 4-6, 2009.** One on *Using Data to Inform Instruction* and another on *Creating a Culture for Student Success*. More information will be available on these workshops in the future. **Put these dates on your calendar.**
- We will also advertise PASA and PASCD offerings in our *You Need to Know* bi-weekly e-newsletter — so watch for these opportunities!

3. How do I ask for an extension if I am unable to get into the free offerings by the state?

By law, the state must provide free PIL programs (Act 45). If you are unable to get into the state programs, you should request a letter from the contact person stating why you were not enrolled. Then contact PDE and request an extension.

If you have other questions and/or concerns please contact us at (717) 732-4999. We hope this information is helpful to you.