PA School Social Work Certification
Timeline Toward Certification

- 1908: HSV Certification in PA CSPG 67
- 1961: First set of NASW SSW Standards
- 1978: LSW and LCSW
- 1987 & 1999: HSV CSPG 67 to CSPG 77
- 2004: HSV Certification in PA CSPG 67 Updated
- 2008: SW CSPG 201 Established. Efforts begin to secure education certification
- 2011: SSW CSPG 87 Education Specialist Certification
- 2019: HSV CSPG 77
- 2021: Social Work Title Protection
A person employed in the position of School Social Worker must hold a current license as a social worker (LSW) or licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) issued by the Pennsylvania Department of State and maintain that license to be employed under this staffing assignment as School Social Worker.

A School Social Worker Educational Specialist certificate is issued to an individual who holds a master's degree in social work ...and who is licensed through the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Occupational Affairs, as a licensed social worker (LSW) or licensed clinical social worker (LCSW). A person employed in the position of School Social Worker must maintain their certificate and their license ....
CSPG 87 - Special Considerations

Individuals who are licensed as a LSW or LCSW in accordance with CSPG #201 or hold a PA Home and School Visitor Certificate may apply for and receive School Social Worker certificate if they satisfy the following requirements:

- Are currently employed through the Pennsylvania Department of State as a LSW or LCSW
- Are currently employed by a local educational agency (LEA) in the Commonwealth; and
- Have completed at least one year of satisfactory service as a School Social Worker or other titled position providing social work related services in a Commonwealth LEA within the prior two years
After August 1, 2023

All persons employed as a School Social Worker must either:

1) Hold a valid, active Pennsylvania School Social Worker Educational Specialist certificate

2) Have an emergency permit, be a LSW or LCSW and be enrolled in a PDE approved school social work program
How does SSW Certification affect Home and School Visitors?

If you hold an HSV and work as an HSV - no change - keep being Awesome!

SSW certification does not replace HSVs nor is it a mandated position

If you hold an HSV and have a MSW/LSW/LCSW, applying for certification is highly recommended

This is the only window for the alternative path toward certification.
School Employed Professionals that SSW Certification will affect...

LPCs
DSW - PhDs (but not MSW/LSW/LCSW)
Act 68 Social Workers
BSWs

All will need to obtain the necessary education and/or license as outlined in the CSPG 87 to apply for SSW certification

If an individual does not satisfy the requirements set forth in CSPG#87, districts should not utilize the individual in the position of “School Social Worker”. Districts that utilize individuals who are not appropriately certified to serve in the position of School Social Worker may be subject to subsidy withholding in accordance with state law. ~PDE FAQ
Benefits of SSW Certification

▪ Equal footing with educationally certified colleagues
▪ Removes the question of being able to be part of the union
▪ Creates standards for who can provide social work services in schools
▪ May assist districts in obtaining federal funding
▪ Career advancement within the school system
▪ Accurate reporting to PDE
▪ “Title protection”
▪ Could assist SSWs in salary negotiation or salary placement
School Social Work Evaluation
Act 13

Framework for Observation & Practice – NTP School Social Worker/Home and School Visitor
https://www.pdesas.org/EducatorFrameworks/EducatorEffectiveness/

Uses the same Danielson model as teachers

- 4 Domains
- Adapted to reflect SSW and HSV tasks
- Provides examples of artifacts for portfolio
- Created questions for supervisors that encourage discussion and education
- Perfect opportunity to educate our administrators of SSW tasks, roles, and value
- Developed for 2021–2022 implementation
Level I to Level II

You have 6 years to complete the following:

○ Induction
○ 24 postbaccalaureate (your MSW covers this)
○ 3 years of satisfactory service
○ Assessments (6 semi-annual satisfactory ratings completed)

https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/PAEducators/LevelItoLevelII/Pages/default.aspx
Maintaining Level II Certification

Once you achieve Level II, you must earn

Six semester credits of collegiate study
 OR

Six CPE credits of PDE approved continuing professional education courses
 OR

180 hours of continuing professional education, programs, activities, or learning experiences through a PDE approved provider
 OR

Any combination of these every five years to maintain active certification status.
TIMS How-To Apply for SSW Certification

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a0GOh80caBXdGFODHTX-_uQGSyXglFlj/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103624498998357201601&rtpof=true&sd=true

PDE FAQs

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dWf9uf2oFJgM_t96neaajMlOQC3QDiI/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103624498998357201601&rtpof=true&sd=true

Framework for SSW Certification

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