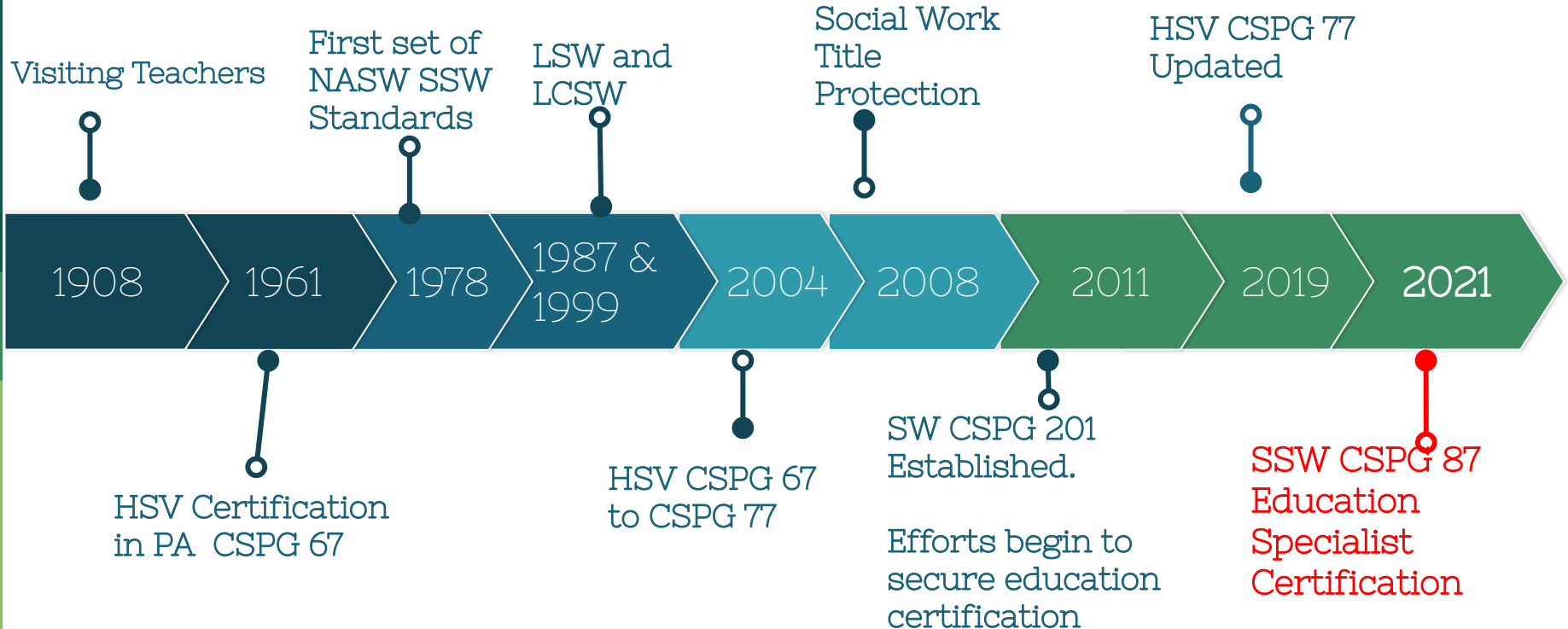




PA School Social Work Certification



Timeline Toward Certification



Where we are now

CSPG 201

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.

CSPG 87

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
- Act 48 requirements, Code of Conduct and Professional Educator Discipline Act.
- 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-uQGSyXglFIj/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103624498998357201601&rtpof=true&sd=true>

PDE FAQs

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dWf9uf2oFJgMt96neaaI1MIO0C3QDiI1/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103624498998357201601&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Framework for SSW Certification

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/Teachers-Administrators/Certification%20Preparation%20Programs/Specific%20Program%20Guidelines/School%20Social%20Worker.pdf>

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