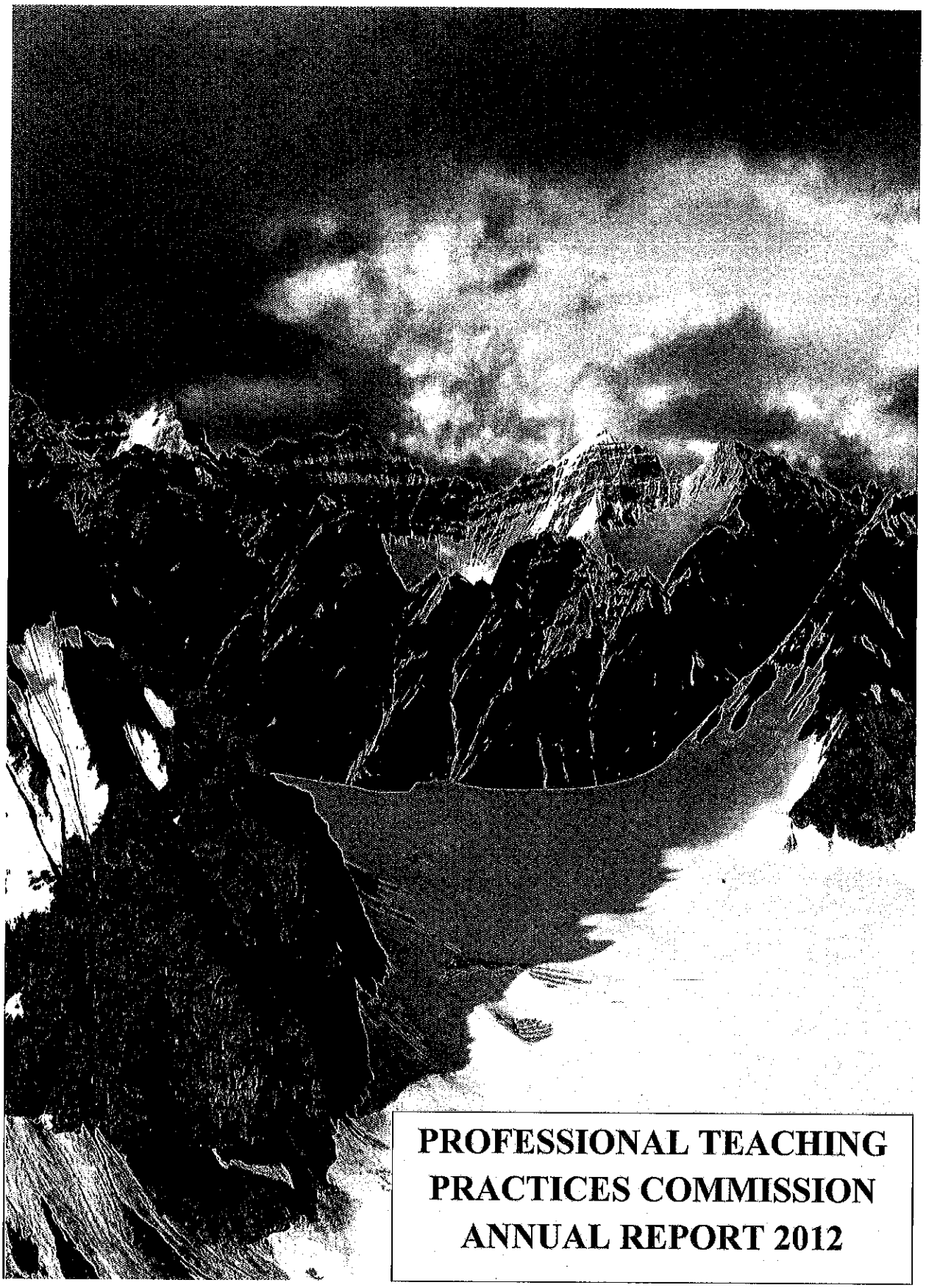

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC) submits its report for Fiscal Year 2012. This report cites the activities and services of the PTPC as authorized by Alaska Statutes, Title 14, Chapter 20, Article 5, entitled "The Professional Teaching Practices Act." The PTPC is funded through the Department of Education and Early Development's general fund.

The Commission governs matters of ethical and professional standards of educators and their compliance with state law and contractual obligations.

This report contains a synopsis of activities of the Commission from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. It is prepared on behalf of the Commission by the Executive Director, Patricia Truman and Secretary, Atiya Barlow.

WHAT IS THE PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION?

In 1966, the education profession in the State of Alaska was granted the right and responsibility to define and to enforce ethical standards of its members. The Alaska Legislature established and empowered a nine-member Commission to impose sanctions against the certificates of educators who engaged in illegal, immoral, or unethical conduct. The *Professional Teaching Practices Commission* is composed of five teachers, one superintendent, one principal, one representative of the Department of Education & Early Development, and one representative of higher education. Constituent groups nominate candidates, the governor appoints the Commissioners upon the approval of the Legislature.

Commission staff investigates allegations of misconduct and partners with Department of Law to present cases to the Commission. As a quasi-judicial body, the Commission has the power to impose sanctions against the certificates of those found, by a preponderance of the evidence, to be in violation of the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.

The Commission has jurisdiction over all certificated members of the education profession, including administrators and instructors in higher education. The Commissions' order is final in disciplinary matters regarding a teacher. Before the certificate of an administrator is sanctioned, the Commissioner of Education & Early Development must concur. A final order of the Commission may be appealed to the Superior Court.

Educators are assigned the responsibility of caring for children and are placed in a position of public trust. Education is a profession, that by its very nature, stresses the value, worth, and dignity of all individuals. Educators are tasked with developing each student's potential, and as such, act as role models for students. It is essential, therefore, that educators sustain the highest degree of ethical conduct.

In their commitment to quality education, the members of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission hold their colleagues to the higher ethical standard that is demanded of a profession entrusted with the care and teaching of children.

Cover Photo *(Mountain 2b)* by: Mark Jones

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Pursuant to Alaska Statutes 14.20.470, the PTPC has the power to:

1. **Warn:** A warning stipulates that the considered conduct is unethical, and if not corrected, a more serious sanction could be imposed. A warning is private communication with the educator; however, it is a matter of public record.

2. **Reprimand.** In the event of a reprimand, members of the education community are informed of the action, and record of the sanction is placed in the certification file. A reprimand is reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse for national distribution.

3. **Suspend.** In the event of a suspension, members of the education community are informed of the action. A suspension may include conditions which must be met before the certificate will be reinstated. A suspension means loss of a certificate for a specific period of time. A suspension is reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse for national distribution.

4. **Revoke**. In the event of a revocation, members of the education community are informed of the disciplinary action. Unless a certificate is revoked for life, an educator may reapply for a reinstatement in accordance with Alaska Statutes, at which time the Commission would review the case for another determination. A revocation is sent to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse for national distribution.

AS 14.20.030. Causes for Suspension or Revocation:

(a) The Commissioner or the Professional Teaching Practices Commission may revoke or suspend a certificate for the following reasons:

(1) Incompetency, which is defined as the inability or the unintentional or intentional failure to perform the teacher's customary teaching duties in a satisfactory manner;

(2) Immorality, which is defined as the commission of an act which , under the laws of the state constitutes a crime involving moral turpitude;

(3) Substantial noncompliance with the laws of the state or the regulations of the department; or

(4) upon the determination by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission that there has been a *violation of ethical or professional standards or contractual obligations.*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Complaints may be filed with the Commission by anyone. If the alleged action is a violation of the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession, of the laws of the State of Alaska, or the Regulations of the Department of Education & Early Development, Commission staff conducts an investigation.

If there is sufficient evidence to indicate that a violation has occurred, an accusation is written and a hearing is held before the Commission. During the hearing, a hearing officer, appointed by the governor, presides. The hearing is held in accordance with the Alaska Administrative Procedure Act. All hearings are open to the public.

FY 2012 IN REVIEW
(July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012)

The Commission met in general session three times.

DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS:

91-24 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission approved a Petition of Reinstatement for Roberta (Borne) Armstrong.

11-21 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Teacher Certificate and the Administrative certificate of Ronald E. Frieh.

11-27 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission issued a reprimand to Jerome D. Grogan.

11-33 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Teacher Certificate of Grant R. Cochran.

11-46 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission agreed to the Revocation for Life of the Teacher Certificate of Sheree G. Buchanan.

11-50 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission suspended the teacher certificate of Katherine Kysar for one year.

11-51 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission suspended the teacher certificate of Marsha A. Bailey for one year.

11-56 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Type M certificate of Daniel D. Page.

11-60 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission accepted the Surrender of the Teacher Certificate of Shawn D. Mercer.

11-62 During the January 2012 meeting, the Commission accepted the surrender of the teacher and administrative certificates of William C. James.

11-73 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission issued a reprimand to Lester W. McCormick.

12-03 During the October 2011 meeting, the Commission issued a reprimand to Linda M. Sims.

12-09 During the January 2012 meeting, the Commission suspended the Alaska Professional Teacher Certificate of Jeffrey Anenson for one year.

12-25 During the January 2012 meeting, the Commission suspended the Type C Certificate of Carol M. Johnson for one year.

12-29 During the April 2012 meeting, the Commission issued a warning to the respondent.

12-30 During the April 2012 meeting, the Commission issued a warning to the respondent.

12-32 During the April 2012 meeting, the Commission suspended the Alaska Initial Teacher Certificate of Toni C. Smith for one year.

12-33 During the April 2012 meeting, the Commission suspended the Alaska Type C Certificate of Wendy C. Nebbia for one year.

12-40 During the April 2012 meeting, the Commission issued a formal reprimand to Steven Pine.

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Final Orders

(*Frequency of Sanctions Invoked*)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sexual Harassment of Staff								0		1		0
Sexual Misconduct with Students	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	3
Drug, Alcohol Offenses					3	2		0	1	1		0
Criminal Conduct, Non-Drug				2			2	1	1			0
Fraudulent Certificates/Applications	1				2	1		0				0
Contract Violations	2	2	5	3	2	1	3	3	6	3	7	7
Professional Misconduct	1	2	3	4	3	2	1	4	1	7	2	9

INQUIRIES

PTPC staff reviewed one hundred sixty-two (162) applications for certification in which there were fingerprint checks indicating convictions. One hundred sixty-one (161) applicants who had revealed convictions on their applications for certification and/or provided the requested details were approved for certification.

Twenty-seven (27) applicants for certification failed to divulge past convictions for criminal violations. The applicants were informed that all convictions must be divulged and details provided on any application that requests that information, even convictions that have been set-aside or had a suspended imposition of sentence. Failure to do so in the future could be considered willful misrepresentation and a cause for revocation.

INQUIRIES FROM OTHER STATES AND CANADA

PTPC staff responded to three (3) requests from other states and Canada for information regarding candidates for certification who reported that they have held, or do hold, an Alaska teaching certificate.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWS

Five (5) administrative reviews were held to evaluate PTPC staff's decisions to dismiss.

NEWSLETTER

The annual newsletter was published and distributed to all educators and other interested parties.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Presentations on professionalism, professional ethics, and the role of the Commission were given to pre-service teacher candidates at the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Alaska Pacific University as well as University of Alaska Anchorage Administrative Interns, University of Alaska Fairbanks Rural Administrators, and UAA Early Childhood Interns. Presentations were also made to the Alaska Transition to Teaching (AKT2) candidates and Statewide Mentors. District presentations included sites in the Mat-Su School District. Staff presented during conferences such as ASTE, Alaska School Board Association, Alaska Principals' Association, and Alaska Superintendents' Association. Executive Director's activities included taping a local radio show, attending the Alaska Teacher Placement job fair, sitting on the Teacher Quality Committee, coordinating the Alaska Teacher of the Year Program, interviewing candidates for AKT2, serving on a national planning committee for the annual Professional Practices Institute, and attending four national conferences.

TEACHING PROFESSION (14.20.370)

Teachers required by state law to be certificated, instructors in institutions of higher learning, school administrators; and school counselors are within the teaching profession.

EFFECT OF THE CODE OF ETHICS (14.20.480)

Members of the teaching profession are obligated to abide by the professional teaching standards adopted by the Professional Teaching Practices Commission.

CODE OF ETHICS (20 AAC 10.020)

The Commission staff provides copies of the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession upon requests from any Alaskan.

MANDATORY REPORTING (20 ACC 10.020 (b)(4)

The Code of Ethics requires that knowledge of physical abuse of a student or sexual conduct with a student by an educator must be reported to the Commission.

NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE

The National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) maintain a clearinghouse where disciplinary action against an educator in any state and Canada is recorded.

PTPC WEB SITE

The PTPC Handbook for Alaska Educators, which includes the Alaska statute that created the Commission, the Code of Ethics, the complaint form, and the investigative procedures of the Commission, can be found at www.eed.state.ak.us/ptpc/. PTPC newsletters and annual reports are also available on the Web site.

DISTRIBUTION OF HANDBOOK (20 AAC 10.310)

Copies of the Alaska State Professional Teaching Practices Commission's Handbook for Alaska Educators shall be conspicuously displayed and available, at every education institution in the state whose employees are members of the teaching profession under AS 14.20.370.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints may be submitted to the Commission by members of the education profession or by the public. Notification by a state agency to the Professional Teaching Practices Commission that an educator has committed a crime may also result in action by the PTPC. Pursuant to 20 AAC 10.210(b): *Unless the alleged act would be grounds for discipline under AS 14.20.030, the staff may not investigate school district personnel actions, including hiring, evaluation, transfer, reassignment, or dismissal of staff; or curriculum actions.*

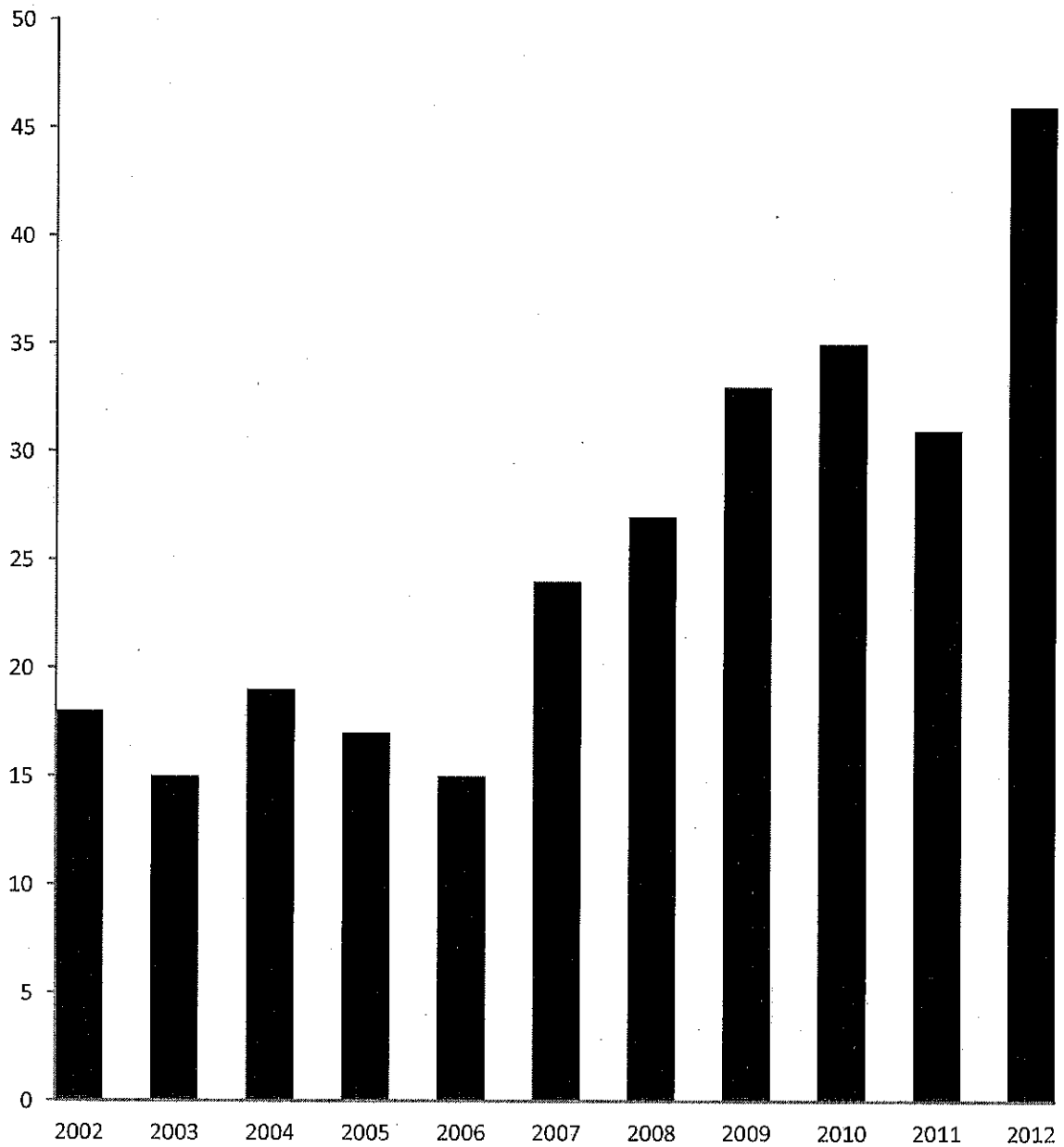
FY 2012 FINANCIAL REPORT July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012				
	Authorization	Actual Disbursements	Encumbrances	Authorization Balance
Personal Services	$220,800.00	$217,181.00		3,619.00
Travel	$16,700.00	$11,395.00		$5,305.00
Contractual	$49,900.00	$20,365.00	$4,715.00	$24,820.00
Commodities	$2,600.00	$4,182.00	$212.00	$-1,794.00
Totals	$290,000.00	$253,122.00	$4927.00	$31,950.00

Personal Services: Salaries

Travel: Executive Director, Commissioners
- Conferences
- Commission Meetings
- Presentations
- Investigations

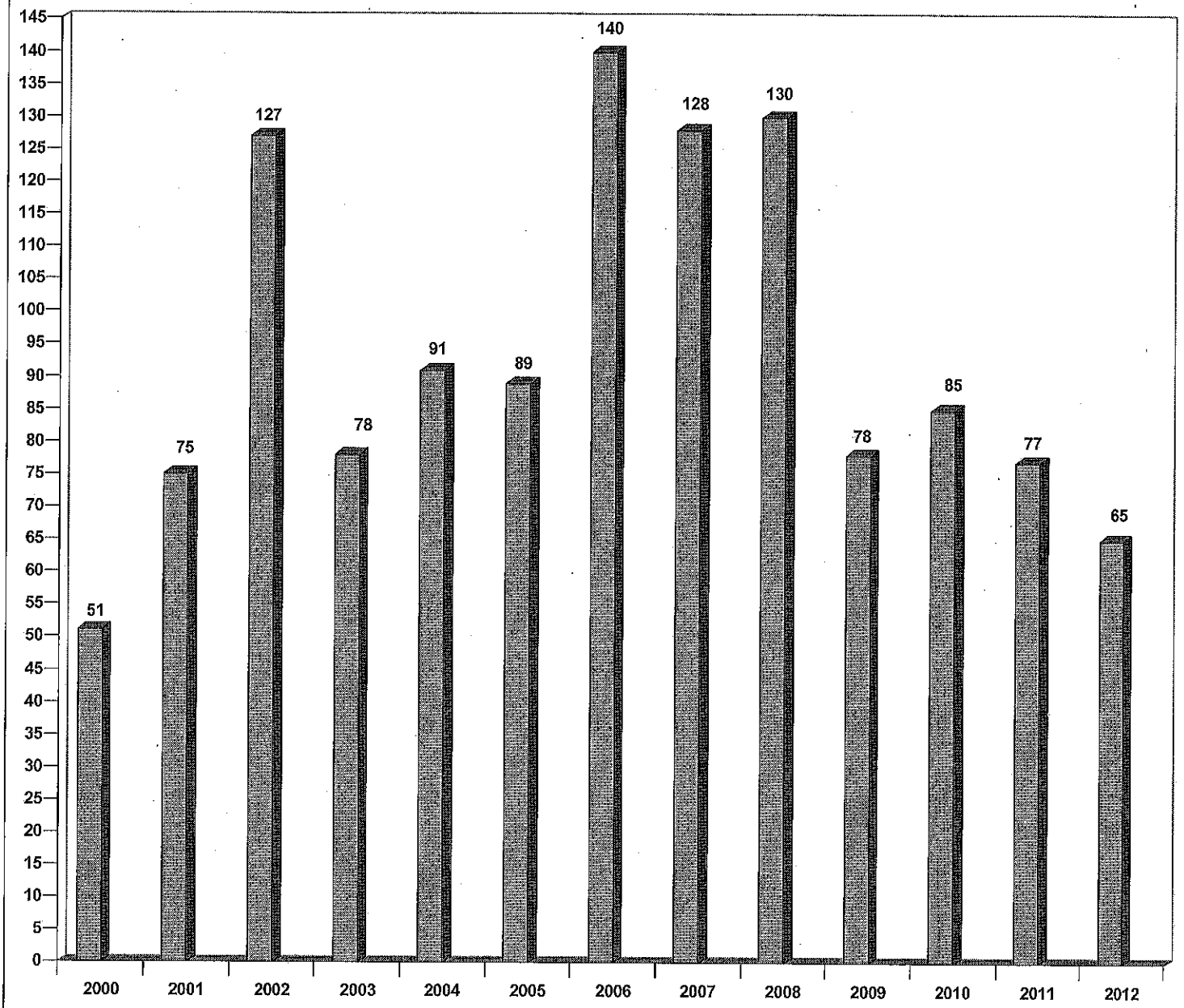
Contractual: Interagency Services
- Department of Administration
- Department of Education
- Department of Law
- Postage
- Print/Copy/Graphics
- Telecommunications

Commodities:
- Business Supplies
- Equipment and Furniture
- Information Technology Equipment



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES

Commission staff is available to provide presentations on the Code of Ethics and the role of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission. Presentation includes discussions regarding professionalism and professional responsibilities.
Contact the Office of the Professional Teaching Practices Commission. **(907) 269-6579**.



PTPC CASES BY YEAR

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING PRACTICES COMMISSION

FY '12

MEMBER	DATE APPOINTED	REAPPOINTED	TERM EXPIRES
Cindy Lou Aillaud Teacher Representative P.O. Box 1245 Delta Junction, AK. 99737	10/26/2006	3/1/2010	3/1/2013
Dr. Steve Atwater Superintendent Representative 148 North Binkley Soldotna, AK. 99669	3/1/2012		3/1/2013
Jill M. Exe Teacher Representative P.O. Box 33 Kaktovik, AK. 99747	3/1/2009	3/1/2012	3/1/2015
Eric Fry DEED Representative P.O. Box 110500 Juneau, AK. 99811	3/1/2010		3/1/2013
Jeffrey A. Hebard Teacher Representative 1192 Bemis Court Fairbanks, AK. 99559	5/1/2006	3/1/2010	3/1/2013
Michael Husa Teacher Representative P.O. Box 1293 Bethel, AK. 99559	2/13/2007	3/1/2010	3/1/2013
Dr. Martin Laster Higher Ed Representative 8133 Pinewood Dr. Juneau, AK 99801	8/21/2012		
Richard A. Lum Teacher Representative 10209 Louis Place Eagle River, AK. 99577	1/29/2008	3/1/2011	3/1/2014
Louis (Lou) Pondolfino Principal Representative P.O. Box 112942 Anchorage, AK. 99511	3/1/2009	3/1/2012	3/1/2015
Patricia Truman Executive Director 344 West 3rd Ave., Ste 127 Anchorage, AK 99501			