



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RANDY I. DORN OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION	)	
CERTIFICATE OF	)	OPP No. D13-03-017
	)	
BRUCE VERKIST	)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 167428B	)	OF REVOCATION
	)	

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington, having reviewed the file of the above-referenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby revoke the Washington Education Certificate, No. 167428B, of Bruce Verkist, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Bruce Verkist was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 167428B, on June 13, 1969. That certificate currently remains valid.

2. Bruce Verkist was a volunteer at the Blaine School District.

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3. On March 27, 2013, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, did receive a complaint letter from Ron Spanjer, the superintendent of the Blaine School District, alleging a lack of personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Bruce Verkist.

4. On or about 1981, Bruce Verkist sexually touched a 14-15 year old male he had hired to do odd jobs at his residence, to include but not limited to masturbating the male on more than one occasion. Bruce Verkist stated that he entered a sex offender treatment program in lieu of being criminally charged.

5. On or about 2005, Bruce Verkist offered to assist the Bellingham School District's band program.

6. On or about the 2008-2009 school year, Bruce Verkist was invited by Bob Gray, the Blaine Middle School music teacher, to volunteer in Blaine School District's music program, assisting 6<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

7. On or about the 2008-2009 school year through the first half of the 2012-2013 school year, Bruce Verkist gave private lessons and tutored middle and high school age students during school and after school hours to as late as 5:30-6:00 p.m.

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8. On January 24, 2013, at a 6<sup>th</sup> grade concert, Bruce Verkist was introduced as a volunteer for the middle and high school band.

9. On January 29, 2013, Principal Darren Benson was informed by a member of the community that Bruce Verkist had undergone treatment in 1983 for inappropriate behavior with students. According to the information Darren Benson received, Bruce Verkist was in treatment on at least two occasions at a Sexual Deviant Treatment Facility called Northwest Counseling Treatment Center.

10. On February 13, 2013, Bruce Verkist interviewed with Principal Darren Benson and submitted a statement, admitting that in 1981 he had masturbated on more than one occasion the 14-15 year old male he had hired to do odd jobs at his residence. Bruce Verkist also reported that he had gone into a treatment program in lieu criminal charges. Bruce Verkist stated that a couple years after completing the initial treatment program, he voluntarily checked back in with the treatment center, "as was recommended". "I have not reoffended since I completed the treatment program." Bruce Verkist admitted, "You know, it doesn't ever go away. It's like alcoholism. You're never really cured, but you know the struggle you must deal with and you do."

11. On March 21, 2013, Bruce Verkist was given the opportunity to interview with an OPP investigator, however, to date, Bruce Verkist has not responded.

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12. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington Education Certificate.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

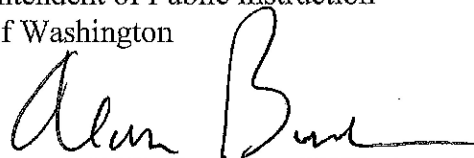
1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Bruce Verkist and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate No. 167428B, of Bruce Verkist, should be revoked for unprofessional conduct and/or lack of good moral character or personal fitness. RCW 28A.410.090; WAC 181-86-075; WAC 181-86-013; WAC 181-86-014.

**ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 167428B, of Bruce Verkist be revoked.

DATED This 12 day of July, 2013.

RANDY I. DORN  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington



Alan Burke, Ed. D  
Deputy Superintendent  
K-12 Education

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