The timeline listed below traces the history of dance certification in Pennsylvania from the years 1969-2004. The timeline was compiled through primary source documents (letters, position papers, pamphlets, state curriculum documents) and oral histories of dance educators in the state. A version of this timeline was published in the Pennsylvania Journal of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Fall Issue, 2005, by Karen Clemente, in an article entitled “Mountains and Valleys of Struggle: Dance Certification in Pennsylvania.”

1969
Bureau of General and Academic Education: Fine Arts Division-the Fine Arts Project: Development of a course for senior high schools of Pennsylvania that would integrate art, music, dance, theater and film

1969
Curriculum Committee of the Dance Division of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (AAHPER): Data provided to the commonwealth pertaining to the state certification of dance as an independent teaching area

1970
Statistics bearing on dance education in Pennsylvania from Joseph A. McCarthy to Dr. Russell P. Getz and members of an ad hoc committee on dance education (Statistics included information on Dance in Teacher Education Curricula, State Certification in Dance in other U.S. states, Dance in PA Secondary School Curricula, and Extra-School Dance Programs in PA—“professional certification” of 150 private dance teachers)

1975
Petition for Dance Certification to John Pittinger, Secretary of Education, by the Ad Hoc Committee On Dance Certification

1978
Policy created liaisons between colleges and public schools for school improvement

1979
Goals of Quality Education adopted by the Pennsylvania State Board of Education: Included a statement on quality education in arts and humanities for every student in the state
1980  Teacher Education Memorandum No. 22
Plan for a process to redesign professional education and certification
New certificate established: Supervisor of Vocational Education

1980-1986  Development of curricular models for dance in K-12 education through the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD) and Temple University faculty and graduates

1984-1985  Turning the Tide: Arts and Humanities Guidelines and Recommendations for Developing Balanced Programs in the Arts and Humanities in PA Secondary Schools

1985  Philadelphia Public School District
Modern Dance Unit: Grades 9-12

1986  Advisory Planning Council: PA State Plan for the Arts in Education

1987  PA Chapter 5 Curriculum Regulations included Arts
Defined as visual arts, music, dance, theatre, film studies, practical arts and crafts

1987  Planned Course Guidelines:
Written plan for instruction required for all subjects specified in curriculum regulations

1988  Report of the Study Team on Teacher Preparation, submitted to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education:
Greater attention must be given to cultural diversity in the educational process

1988  PA Arts Curriculum Project
Development of principles, definitions, and planned course outlines for dance, theatre, visual arts, and music

1989  Dance Education in the State of PA—report on PA Arts Curriculum Project:
Delivered at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit

1991  Special Projects Grant by PSAHPERD for field testing of dance planned course outlines, including the elderly and special populations
1992-1995  PA Plan for Arts Education:
A summary by Secretary of Education Donald Carrol (under Governor Robert Casey)

1992  Advising Committee for Dance and Theatre Certification

1992  Pennsylvania Department of Education Arts Advisory Council,
Steering Committee for Dance Certification

1993  Executive Summary: Cogency Report on Dance Certification

1993  Dance Advisory Council, Pennsylvania Department of Education

1993  Benchmarks for Dance: from Arts and Humanities Learning Outcomes listed in
Chapter 5- PA Team of Dance Educators

1994  Dance for All: Pennsylvania K-12 Dance Curriculum Guidelines
(revised from the original PA Arts Curriculum Project, 1988)

1994  New state regulations for preparation and certification of education professionals
Key element: collapsing some separate certificates into a single certificate

1994  Invitation from the Pennsylvania State Board of Education to attend hearings throughout
Pennsylvania on proposed revisions to Chapter 49 (certification of professional educators)

1994  Proposal for Dance Certification submitted by the Pennsylvania Arts Education Advisory Council
to the Pennsylvania State Department of Education (several former submissions of this document:

1995  Model Planning Grant to support a one-week training seminar for dance educators in Pennsylvania
(part of the Arts Education Collaborative Funding Initiative 1994-1995)

1995  Pennsylvania Academic Standards Working Committee

1995  PA Dance Curriculum Frameworks Document
(Dance Division, PSAHPERD)

1995  PA Arts Assessment Design Team
Goal to develop an arts assessment in PA for Grades 4, 7, and 10
1998  Dance Survey conducted on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Education:
Surveyed dance programs in the state: K-12, private studios, and higher education

1999  Arts in Education Focus Group
Standards for Pennsylvania Teacher Certification in the Arts

2001  Crosswalks Framework for Dance Education:
Curricular documents drafted for Dance, Theatre, Music and Visual Arts

2003  Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities: Final approval

2003  Dance Occupational Competency Assessment Project:
Team of dance professionals assembled to develop a subject matter test for use in awarding
teacher certification in dance (Test developed through NOCTI-National Occupational Competency
Institute)

2003  Dance certification pilot testing conducted at Temple University

2004  Certification orientation sessions and beginning of testing

2004  Educational programs leading to Vocational Dance Certification in PA State institutions
offering programs: Temple University, Penn State, and Indiana University of Pennsylvania