BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
GOOD MORAL CHARACTER STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

1.0 In order to be issued an educator license (e.g., teaching, administrative, or pupil services) by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), an applicant must be deemed of “good moral character.” The College of Education and Human Development at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), as the Educator Preparation Unit, is responsible for recommending individuals for licensure. Given this responsibility, all students enrolled at BGSU in programs leading to educator licensure eligibility are required to sign this document declaring their “good moral character” status and verifying their awareness of the standard.

2.0 Please read the definition of good moral character in paragraph 3.0 and the licensure application questions in paragraph 4.0 that are printed below. If you meet the definition of good moral character as stated in the State of Ohio, Administrative Code, Rule 3301-21-01, sign the first statement of assurance of good moral character on the back of this form. If you can accurately and truthfully answer “NO” to all of the licensure application questions stated in paragraph 4.0 below, also sign the second statement on the back of this form. If you have concerns about whether you meet the definition provided in the standard or if you answered “YES” to any of the licensure application questions, sign the third statement, then contact the Office of Professional Conduct at the ODE (614/466-5638) and ask to speak to the Administrator of Investigations regarding a potential issue with your background check. Please be aware that failure to sign this form may jeopardize your eligibility for licensure. In addition, any knowing false statement contained on this form may subject you to liability under the laws of Ohio.

3.0 Good moral character is defined in Administrative Rule 3301-21-01(M) as follows:

A person shall be deemed to be of good moral character provided that said individual has not pleaded guilty to or been convicted of any felony, any violation of Section 2907.04 (corruption of a minor) or Section 2907.06 (sexual imposition), or Division (a) or (c) of Section 2907.07 (importuning) of the Revised Code, any offense of violence, theft offense, or drug abuse offense that is not a minor misdemeanor, or any substantively comparable ordinance of a municipal corporation or of another state. An individual who has pleaded guilty to or has been convicted of any such offense may have an application for certification considered by the State Board of Education, provided said individual meets the conditions specified in rule 3301-23-23 of the Administrative Code.

4.0 Educator licensure application questions:

1. Have you been convicted of, found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to any misdemeanor other than a traffic offense? Yes No

2. Have you been convicted of, found guilty of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to any felony? Yes No

3. Have you ever had a criminal conviction sealed or expunged? Yes No

4. Have you had any certificate, license, or permit, or the application for same, revoked, suspended, limited, or denied? Yes No

5. Have you ever surrendered any certificate, license, or permit? Yes No

(OVER)
CERTIFICATIONS

If you meet the standard for “good moral character” as defined in paragraph 3.0 of this form, please sign the following assurance of good moral character:

I, __________________________(print name), assure and certify to the Educator Preparation Unit that I am of good moral character, as defined in paragraph 3.0 on the reverse side of this form.

____________________________________   _____________________
Signature                                      Date

If you have accurately and truthfully answered “NO” to all of the questions listed in paragraph 4.0 of this form, please sign the following statement:

I, __________________________(print name), assure and certify to the Educator Preparation Unit that I have accurately and honestly answered “NO” to all of the questions listed in paragraph 4.0 on the reverse side of this form.

____________________________________   _____________________
Signature                                      Date

If you do not meet the standard for good moral character as defined in paragraph 3.0, or if you answered “YES” to any of the questions listed in paragraph 4.0 on the reverse side of this form, please sign the statement below:

I, __________________________(print name), acknowledge that due to my declination to sign the certifications above, I have been advised by the Educator Preparation Unit to consult with the Ohio Department of Education before I apply for licensure. I understand enrollment in an educator licensure program does not guarantee licensure and it is my responsibility to consult with the Office of Professional Conduct, Ohio Department of Education, to address this issue.

____________________________________   _____________________
Signature                                      Date
Additional Educator Licensure Information

Periodically during your educator preparation program you will be required to be fingerprinted so a Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and/or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) check may be completed to verify your “good moral character” status. There will be a fee associated with each fingerprinting session and that fee will be solely your responsibility. The fingerprinting process and the BCI/FBI checks will be expected of you because you will be entering schools and working with PreK-12 students as a part of your educator preparation program. The BCI/FBI checks are professional requirements and help to insure the health and safety of the PreK-12 students with whom you will be working.

I, _________________________(print name), have read and understand this information.

Signature _________________________ Date ________________

For BGSU to recommend an undergraduate/graduate student or degree holder seeking licensure only (non-degree) for a State of Ohio license (teaching, administrative, or pupil services), all program and licensure criteria must have been met. Licensure applicants must meet the criteria in place at the point of licensure application.

1. For continuously enrolled students (i.e., from admission to program completion), licensure program requirements are specific to the year in which the licensure program was begun and are specified in the undergraduate or graduate catalog and/or on the program checksheet. Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment, however, may be subject to additional program/licensure requirements.
   - College of Education and Human Development (EDHD) students who stop out of continuous enrollment for more than two consecutive semesters (summers are not counted) will be moved to the current checksheet at the time of readmission.

2. Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensure criteria including Praxis II test requirements and qualifying scores are subject to change. Applicants must meet the requirements at the time of licensure application. Praxis II requirements are posted on the ODE and Educational Testing Service (ETS) web sites.

3. Students who delay their application for State of Ohio licensure (defined by the date when application is complete and ready for submission to the ODE) for longer than one academic year from their program completion/graduation must meet current, State-approved, program/licensure requirements at the time of application. Changes in these requirements during the interim between program completion/graduation and application may result in the applicant having to meet additional requirements before BGSU may recommend licensure.

I, _________________________(print name), have read and understand this information.

Signature _________________________ Date ________________