



I am writing to introduce the NASDTEC Educator Identification Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse), a vital resource for ensuring the integrity of the educator workforce across jurisdictions. Established in 1985, the Clearinghouse enables state licensing agencies, local school districts, and colleges of education to verify whether an individual has had administrative actions taken against a license they held before issuing a new license in another state, being employed by a school district, or admitted into an education preparation program.

Unlike criminal background checks, the Clearinghouse contains records of administrative actions, which may include admonishments, suspensions, or revocations—depending on respective state statutes and regulations. Since most misconduct cases are handled administratively rather than through criminal courts, these incidents often do not appear in standard background checks unless they were the result of criminal charges. This makes the Clearinghouse an essential tool for identifying individuals who may pose a risk to students but would otherwise go undetected through traditional screening methods.

The Clearinghouse is supported by all 50 U.S. states, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA), Ontario, and Guam. Local school districts and colleges of education can access this resource by becoming associate members of NASDTEC and subscribing to the service. By incorporating the Clearinghouse into background screening procedures, local school districts can make more informed hiring and admission decisions, strengthening their risk management strategies and safeguarding students.

Each year, approximately 6,000 educators face adverse actions against their licenses. While these cases represent only a fraction of the total educator workforce, the impact of even a single failure in the screening process can be significant. The Clearinghouse provides a proactive approach to preventing individuals with prior infractions from moving undetected between states and positions.

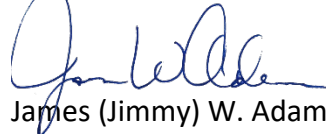
To maximize the effectiveness of the Clearinghouse, it is recommended that hiring managers and educator preparation programs:

- Conduct thorough reference checks, including with previous employers.
- Ask applicants whether they have ever faced administrative actions against any professional license.
- Implement ethics training for all school district staff, within educator preparation curricula, and as a requirement for licensure renewal.

By leveraging the Clearinghouse, local school districts and colleges of education can better protect students and uphold the high standards of the teaching profession. If you have any

questions or would like further information about accessing the Clearinghouse, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



James (Jimmy) W. Adams

Executive Director

NASDTEC

