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## Polish Supplementary School Council Of America, Inc.

*New York, NY*

The Polish Supplementary School Council was established in 1925 at the initiative of Waclaw Bojan, the author of "The New World." As catalyst for his idea, he used America's liquidation of bilingual ethnic schools. The Polish community was anxious about this development, seeking a way to preserve their Catholic beliefs and Polish values. They believed the proposed council would serve this purpose and would provide the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Florida with true virtues of the Polish culture and religion. The founded schools were created in the vicinity of Polish Catholic parishes with classes taking place on weekends. School curriculum included Polish grammar and spelling, Polish history, geography, traditions, and religion. Hired instructors and teaching staff consisted of individuals educated, approved and paid by the Polish Ministry of Education.

The books used for teaching were specifically prepared and published in Poland for Polish schools overseas.

The Council in America emulated the role of the Polish Board of Education in Poland. It cooperated with the schools, organizing meetings and methodological training. During World War II, even though many educational institutions closed their doors, the Polish Supplementary Council continued its operations. In the 1950's, thanks to a new wave of Polish immigrants who had just escaped Hitler's horrors, the schools re-opened again, admitting a new generation of young Poles eager to learn.

On May 20, 1962 during a conference in New York, the Polish Supplementary Council approved its statute and was subsequently recognized and registered as a non-profit educational organization by the New York State Department.

Currently the Polish Supplementary School Council is an

organization uniting 65 schools in the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Florida, with 8,030 registered students and 565 teachers (as of 2007/08 school year).

With the need for a change to take place necessary to ensure further success, the Council has introduced modifications to its statute which had remained unchanged for over 45 years. These amendments were completed in February of 2007. As a result, the Council implemented universal teaching and grading guidelines for all instructors, together with uniform grade certificates for all schools. In addition, the Council

Management term was extended to a maximum of three years. Finally, a special award was established for teachers and Polish community members who go beyond their call of duty.

The award was named after Janina Igielska, former long-term Council Vice-President.

In 2004, the Polish Supplementary School Council introduced its Web page. It includes guidelines for Polish Supplementary School Principals on how to achieve maximum success at their schools. The website also allows teachers to take part in Polish seminars both in the United States and Poland.

With the help of the Maria Sklodowska-Curie University in Lublin, a 2-year extramural graduate program of Teaching Polish as a Foreign Language. In 2008, 56 PSSC instructors attended this program and received a diploma.

In order to ensure the highest possible level of education services, the Polish Supplementary School Council has created a variety of interscholastic events. With the help of the Polish-American Congress, the Council has also introduced Polish Regents Exam and Polish Certification Exams, administered at the Columbia University in New York. Passing the Polish Regents Exams gives students 3 language credits in most American high schools and – depending on school requirements – allows students to obtain college credits.

The Polish Supplementary School Council works in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Education, Center of Advanced Teacher Training in Lublin, the "Wspólnota Polska" Association, Polish-American Congress, the Polish Consulate in New York, Pilsudski Institute, and the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union. Cooperation with PSFCU encompasses, among others, two competition programs: "Credit Union for Students" and "Astronomy Adventure with Copernicus", aimed at rewarding the best overall Polish students in the United States.

HD036D 04/2009

\* The information above was prepared by Polish Supplementary School Council Of America, Inc.

**Polish Supplementary School Council Of America, Inc.**  
is a sponsor organization for the Polish & Slavic Federal Credit Union

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