

JN - 4 1997

11TH DISTRICT
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Senate of Pennsylvania
June 2, 1997

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The Hon. James J. Rhoades
Senate Post Office
The State Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0030

Dear Senator Rhoades:

I am writing to submit comments to the proposed changes in Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code regarding the certification of professional personnel.

The change to section 49.103 (b) (2), which requires an applicant for an Education Specialist II to complete three years of satisfactory teaching with an Education I Certificate, presents some confusion because the Education I Certificate is not a teaching certificate. Consequently, it appears that a school psychologist is being required to obtain teaching certification, along with teaching for three years in order to qualify as an Education Specialist II. This would impose a radical change in the training process of school psychologists.

I question whether the added requirements of teacher certification and three years of classroom experience will significantly add to the skill and expertise necessary to adequately perform the duties of a school psychologist. This situation could easily be remedied by replacing the word "teaching" found in 49.103 (b) (2) with the word "service", as it was stated in the previous version of Chapter 49.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike".

Michael A. O'Pake
Senator--11th District

MAOP:G