

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: tmbdmb [tmbdmb@erols.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2001 1:15 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Cc: wluckenbillpin@aol.com
Subject: Chapter 14

I would like to recommend that the proposed changes in Chapter 14 be REJECTED. I am the parent of a 6 year old son diagnosed with PDD and these changes will not help my son in any way!

Tom Brinker, Glen Mills, PA

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:38
REVIEW COMMISSION

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14 Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Original: 2144

RECEIVED
2601 MAR -6 AM 11:12 Delivery Attempted
3/5/01
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Nicole Goreg I am a Learning Support teacher at Keystone Elementary School in Knox, PA. It has come to my attention that Chapter 14 is about to be passed. This concerns me because of the issue of class size. I am afraid that special education teachers state wide will be faced with teaching too many students than can be properly taught in a special needs classroom. Students with needs demand individualized instruction with one-on-one or small group settings. Eliminating class size limits will allow school districts to place more students in rooms than can be taught using this setting with Direct Instruction. The students will not receive the education they are entitled to. It will be the students who suffer.

Pennsylvania has always set high standards in regard to special education. Passing chapter 14 will be a step backwards. It is not fair to the students

Sincerely,

Nicole Goreg

Dr. Mom's Advice

121 Florence DR
Cogan Station PA
17728

Muriel Hykes, President

Phone: 570.494.2299 FAX: 570.494.0100 email: drmom@geocities.com March 6, 2001

To the Representative,

Larger special ed classes? What were you thinking? You obviously haven't visited a learning support class lately!

Sincerely,

Muriel Hykes

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 2:06
REVIEW COMMISSION

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Terry Morreale [terry442_2000@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 05, 2001 3:50 PM

To: IRRC@irrc.state.pa.us

Subject: Special Ed. Regs

I reccomend strongly, the rejection of the new Chapter 14 Special Education Regulations on class size.

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:34
REVIEW Commission

3/6/2001

Original: 2144

LCPTSA

Littlestown Community PTSA
68 Maple Ave ~ Littlestown PA. 17340
Phone 359-5927 ~ Email dfriedman@ptamail.com

RECEIVED

MAR-7 2001

REVIEW COMMITTEE

18

March 05, 2001

Robert E. Nye
Executive Director, IRRC
333 Market Street 14th floor
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

CHAPTER 14 PROPOSAL

Dear Mr. Nye,

We would like to address the proposed changes to Chapter 14 and how they would impact our district. We feel as though the language should include class size definition and case load limits that are reasonable. Without limits being set, there is a problem of too many students not receiving the proper time or direction to fulfil their needs. Teachers are overwhelmed and classrooms are disrupted by the constant comings and goings of students. To large of a caseload will be detrimental and placing no limits on class size could be exploited by districts with low funds. The strain that this places on the regular classes should be considered also.

Also we are recommending lay-advocates as legal representatives for parents. In many cases the parents are spending a considerable amount of money on medical bills and counseling fees for their children. It puts these parents at a disadvantage when forced to pay legal fees to insure their children's rights are being carried through the educational system.

There comes a time Mr. Nye when we must shoulder the responsibilities we have taken on. Pennsylvania has been generous to special education, to make these cuts would be pulling the rug out from under children already placed in our system and short changing not only the students who need these services in the future, but our communities and mainstream classrooms as well.

Deborah Friedman
President LCPTSA

Deborah Friedman

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

35 MEMBERS

Anna G. Marchand

Jane Bitner

Kenneth L. Thomas

Sara Klingelhofen

John Anderson

John P. Kellum

Lina Mesgoda

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: tmbdmb [tmbdmb@erols.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2001 1:09 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Chapter 14

I am the parent of a 6 year old son diagnosed with PDD. I would like you to REJECT the proposed changes to Chapter 14.

Thank you.
Donna Brinker
187 Willits Way
Glen Mills, PA 19342

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:34
REVIEW COMMISSION
40

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Victoria Zeiger [zeigers5@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 7:47 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Chapter 14 changes

Dear Commissioners:

As the parent of a special needs child (autism) I am alarmed by the proposed changes in Chapter 14 regarding maximum class size increases, the elimination of the 10-day limit to implement services outlined in the child's educational plan, and the elimination of the requirement to include a behavioral plan for children with behavioral needs. Please vote against these changes as they only hurt our children who already suffer so much!

Victoria Moore Zeiger
510 Reis Street
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 654-9943

Get your FREE download of MSN Explorer at <http://explorer.msn.com>

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:34
REVIEW COMMISSION
40

3/6/2001

Original: 2144

CONSTANCE L. YOCUM

2001-03-07 14:00:00

P.O. Box 45
Port Royal, PA. 17082
Phone 717-436-9692

ConstanceYocum@alumni.ship.edu

March 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I have learned that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission will be holding a hearing regarding the Chapter 14 Special Education Regulations on March 8, 2001. I would like to offer some insight to the commission regarding this matter.

I encourage the commission to reject the Chapter 14 regulations as written because they do not include specifications for special education class sizes/caseloads.

I am in my twenty-fifth year as a special education teacher. I have seen the IDEA law change several times and along with it the PDE Chapter 14 regulations. Pennsylvania has in the past been forward thinking in including class size limits in their regulations. I would hope that we would continue this extra protection for our special needs children.

I currently have a class/caseload size of 14 primary and intermediate elementary students; one short of the 15 maximum permitted under the current Chapter 14 regulations. I have approached or been at maximum several times in my career and I can tell you from experience that my job in implementing and following up on that may IEP's is difficult and time consuming. The larger the number the more stretched I am in delivering quality services to my students. Sometimes I come very close to just presenting information to children and not really developing and teaching the information because of scheduling, paperwork, and lack of plan time for the higher number of students.

I cannot imagine going beyond the 15 maximum limit. There are no more hours in the instructional day and there would be no added plan time to accomodate a higher number of students. Yet, if you, the IRRC, allow these regulations to pass without class size/caseload limits you will open the door for school districts to overload both regular and special education classrooms.

School districts, boards of education, and local policies are constantly changing. I would not like to see our special needs youngsters caught up in the politics of local boards in regard to pupil/teacher ratio. If the Commonwealth includes class sizes/caseloads within Chapter 14 then the children will be protected.

Sincerely,
Constance L. Yocum
(Miss) Constance L. Yocum

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

Robert Nyce
Chm, I R R

3/4/01

REC'D
2001 MAR - 01 11:10
INDEPENDENT COUNCIL ON
REVIEW OF EDUCATION

Delivery Attempted
3/5/01

Dear Mr Nyce:

I am writing to strongly urge you to reconsider and amend the recent Chapter 14 regulations regarding unrestricted class size in special support rooms. As an elementary counselor of 27 years and in the roles of LETA and writing IEP's and behavioral plans, in addition to sitting up our district's elem. support classes each year, I must urgently caution you that not limiting these class sizes will have: impeded learning (1 to 1 and small group), caused more behavior problems, created increased stress for children, and prolonged student's need for support. Please reconsider these regulations to limit class size! Daniel Melham
Counselor Keystone Elem.

Daniel Williams
Keystone Elm.
457 Hueton Ave.
Knox, Pa. 16232

3-4-01

DEAR MR. NYCE:

RECEIVED

2001 MAR -6 10:11:11

REVIEW COMMISSION

Delivery Attempted 3/5/01

REGARDING THE PENDING CHAPTER 14
LEGISLATION, I AM CONCERNED WITH THE
ELIMINATION OF CLASS SIZE MAXIMUMS.
AS A 10TH GRADE ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR, IT
SEEMS AMAZINGLY UNFAIR TO BOTH MY
STUDENTS, MY AID, AND MYSELF THAT
ALL MY SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS ARE
IN MY LARGEST CLASS OF THE DAY.
AND THAT IS THE CASE NOW - WITH LIMITS
IN PLACE. IT IS LITERALLY IMPOSSIBLE
TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MY SPECIAL
STUDENTS AND FOR THIS I AM DEEPLY
REGRETFUL.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Sincerely,
Kilby Rutkowski
KESTONE HS.
LANOX, PA

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Denapapa@cs.com
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 9:19 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Reject proposed changes to Chapter 14

IRRC:

I encourage you to reject the proposed changes to Chapter 14.

If the revised version of Chapter 14 is enacted, some of the unpleasant consequences for our kids will be the repeal of state class size maximums, the elimination of the 10 day timeline for providing children with the services in their education plans, and the deletion of the requirement that the education plans of children with problem behaviors must contain behavior plans.

I have a daughter with a disability. The proposed changes would negatively effect her.

Thank you for your support.

Dena Papadopoulos
201 Laurel Lane
Broomall, PA 19008

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 9:35
IRRC
REVIEW COMMISSION

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Maureen R. O'Brien [obrien@stargate.duq.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 7:18 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Proposed Revisions to Chapter 14

Dear IRRC Commissioners:

As the parent of a special needs child, I urge you to REJECT the proposed revisions to Chapter 14. The changes would affect children like my son in negative ways. It is vital that we keep in place requirements such as state class size maximums, the 10 day timeline for providing children with the services in their education plans, and the requirement that the education plans of children with problem behaviors must contain behavior plans.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Maureen R. O'Brien
121 Lexington Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Phone: 412-781-2767

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
IRRC REVIEW COMMISSION

3/6/2001

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: John Listerud [listerud@ginger.mmrcc.upenn.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 3:05 AM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Cc: .@ginger.mmrcc.upenn.edu
Subject: Chapter 14 of PA's IDEA

TO: Commissioners of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)
John R. McGinley, Jr., Esq.
Chairman, IRRC

Alvin C. Bush
Vice Chairman, IRRC

Arthur Coccodrilli
Commissioner, IRRC

Robert J. Harbison
Commissioner, IRRC

John F. Mizner, Esq.
Commissioner, IRRC

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
IRRC

Dear Sirs:

I am e-mailing you to ask that you reject changes to Chapter 14 of the Pennsylvania implementation of the IDEA.

As the parent of a child with autism/PDD, my wife and I would be significantly handicapped in our ability to advocate for our son the services he needs to live his life to its fullest capacity.

Please do not support the weakening of the provision of Chapter 14.

Thank you,
John Listerud & Pia Newman
Parents of Jacob Listerud

cc: Sen. Robert J. Mellow

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: gizmo1006@webtv.net
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 7:44 AM
To: irrc@irc.state.pa.us
Subject: REVISIONS OF CHAPTER 14

COMMISSIONERS : JOHN MCGINLEY . ALVIN BUS H, ARTHUR COCCODRILLI,
ROBERT HARBISON , JOHN MIZNER . THIS IS A REQUEST THAT YOU
PLEASE REJECT THE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 14 KATIE'S GRAMMOM !

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
REVIEW COMMISSION
1

Original: #2144

RECEIVED

2001 MAR -6 AM 11:11

REVIEW CONFIDENTIAL

March 4, 2001
Delivery Attempted
3/5/01

Dear Mr. Nye,

I am a special education teacher from Harrison County. I am currently traveling in a bus to the PSEA rally in Harrisburg, so please excuse my hand writing.

I am concerned with the fact that the House Committee has approved the Chapter 14 reg. By accepting these reg. the state is eliminating special ed classroom maximums. This troubles me as a special educator. I don't have enough time with my students as it is. By eliminating these maximums, we're reducing the amount of one on one instruction these children will receive.

Please reconsider & vote against these regulations Put Children First!
Thank you for your consideration
Danna Karselman
New Bethlehem, PA

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Denapapa@cs.com
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 9:15 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: (no subject)

Commissioners of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

As a parent of a child with a disability I encourage you to reject the proposed changes to Chapter 14.

If the revised version of Chapter 14 is enacted, some of the unpleasant consequences for my child will be the repeal of state class size maximums, the elimination of the 10 day timeline for providing children with the services in their education plans, and the deletion of the requirement that the education plans of children with problem behaviors must contain behavior plans.

The proposed changes would negatively effect my daughter, Nicole.

Thank you for your support.
Sincerely,
Dena Papadopoulos
201 Laurel Lane
Broomall, PA 19008

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:36
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Dinrush@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 12:32 PM
To: irrc@irc.state.pa.us
Subject: Chapter 14 changes

Messrs. McGinley, Bush, Coccodrillia, Harbison and Mizner:
PLEASE reject the proposed changes to Chapter 14. As a mother of a child with autism, I have greave concerns that these changes will be detrimental to our child's education in the public school system.

Thank you for your support!
Sincerely,
Virginia Rush

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
REVIEW COMMISSION
41

3/6/2001

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Cathyk435@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2001 9:29 AM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Revisions to Chapter 14

Dear Sir:

I am writing to bet you to not pass the current proposed version of Chapter 14, Special Education Standards and Regulations. You must have heard by now that these guidelines do nothing to protect children receiving special education services from their school districts, and removes class size limitations. It undermines children's abilities to receive a free, appropriate public education, and removes due process protections for families.

The process by which these regulations have moved forward have included statewide hearings with families and advocates, and I have attended several of these. It is extremely disappointing to me as a parent, to know that while we have been protesting these changes, our voices are not being heard. The new regulations tear down many of the protections of the former regs, to the detriment of children and families. Please stop the process now, go back and listen to what the families and advocates have been saying, and incorporate those protections that have been removed. It is the least you can do for Pennsylvania's handicapped children. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Koffs

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
IRRC REVIEW COMMISSION

3/6/2001

Original: 2144

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 AM 11:11
REVIEW COMMISSION

170 Fernwood Dr.
Cranberry, PA
16319

Delivery Attempted March 4, 2001
315701

Dear Mr. Nyce,

I am writing to voice my concern about the elimination of the class-size maximum in Chapter XIV. I am a fourth grade teacher in the Kiptone School District. I have taught for 20 years and have special needs children included in my classroom. There must be a limit to the number of special needs children in an inclusion setting so as not to hinder the learning of all children involved. I am asking you to vote against the elimination of the class-size maximum.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Paulette Colantoni

Mar. 4, 2001

Original: 2144

Dear Mr. Nyce,

I am a third grade teacher in the Keystone School District who is very concerned about the upcoming vote on Chapter 14. Please vote against the elimination of the class size maximum. The number of students in a class has a direct effect on their success of learning.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,
Gloria Bushyeager

Gloria Bushyeager
208 Liberty St.
Clarion, Pa.
16214

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 11:12
REVIEW COMMISSION

Delivery Attempted
3/5/01

3/4/01

Original: 2144

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Jana Bickerstaff. I am a Learning Support Teacher in Brookville, PA. I teach grades 3-6 Language Arts, Math, Study Skills.

I am concerned about the lifting of class size maximum numbers in Chapter 14. I currently service 19 students with no aide or assistance. The task of developing individual objectives & lesson plans is challenging enough without eliminating the very constraints that make it possible to deliver the kind of services a Free Appropriate Public Education requires.

Please consider NOT eliminating

The maximum class size limits.

Thank you for time.

Jana E Bickertoff

Brookville, IL

RECEIVED

2001 MAR -6 04:10


REVIEW COMMISSION

Delivery Attempted
3/5/01

Original: 2144

202 Barger Hollow Rd.
Parker PA 16049
March 4, 2001

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 AM 11:10

Dear Mr Robert Myce,  Delivery Attempted
3/5/01

I am an elementary teacher at
Keystone Elementary School. I ~~would~~ ^{work} with
special education students in many subjects.

I'm writing in concern of the upcoming
vote on Chapter 14 on Tuesday. Please
vote against the elimination of the class
size maximum. This could only hurt
the education of all students involved.
We, teachers, are here to help not hinder
our children

Please excuse my writing. I'm riding
on a bus right now to rally for
public education.

Sincerely,
Carol G. Adams
724-399-2513

Original: 2144

RECEIVED
2001-03-03
RECEIVED

727 N. Irving Avenue
Scranton, Pa. 18510
March 3, 2001

Mr. Robert E. Nyce
Executive Director
IRRC
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

Re: Chapter 14
REJECTION

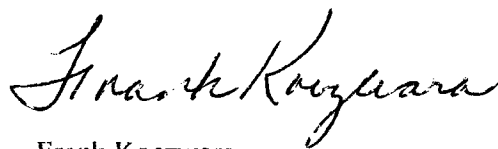
Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am writing to you concerning the new regulations and standards for Special Education proposed in Chapter 14. I am requesting from the bottom of my heart that you and your fellow Commissioners on the Independent Regulatory Review Commission **reject** Chapter 14. My reasons for this request pertain to our children because the new proposed regulations and standards are not good for children in Special Education. My main concern is class size and the elimination of parenthetical numbers pertaining to support personnel. If the class size charts are changed and support personnel eliminated our children will suffer and their educational process will be changed drastically and I believe that is wrong.

Once again, please reject Chapter 14 because they are not in the best interest for our children in Special Education.

Thank you.

Respectfully yours,



Frank Koczvara

Original: 2144

2040 Carlisle Road
Aspers, PA 17304-9709
March 3, 2001

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -7 11:10:40
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105
Dear Commissioners,

When the Independent Regulatory Review Commission considers the proposed Special Education Regulations (Chapter 14), I urge you to reject the regulations because they do not include special education class size maximums.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers' proposal on class size provides the flexibility that administrators say they need for special education staffing. I have already contacted members of the House and Senate Education Committees to consider this proposal.

Please **do not** adopt special education standards and regulations which will not protect Pennsylvania's special needs students.

Respectfully,

Kathi M. Halloran

Kathi M. Halloran
Special Education Teacher

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

Original: 2144

March 3, 2001

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 AM 11:09
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

*Delivery Attempted
3/5/01*

Dear Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director :

I am a special education teacher at Keystone Elementary School in Knox, Pennsylvania. I am contacting you over concern for the elimination of the class size maximums for special education classrooms and hope that you would reject any Chapter 14 proposal that does not include these maximums.

In listening to the Department of Education representatives at one of Critical Issue Sessions last year at our PSEA House of Delegates, the attendees were informed by them that the reason for this change is because the districts "cannot" stay within the guidelines. I am a special education teacher in Knox and know personally that special education classes can be held within the present class size maximums if the administration is serious about staying within the law. If you would like to see special education done right -- please come and visit our classrooms.

Smaller class sizes are effective! This has been proven through studies and our state is trying to move toward smaller class sizes in the primary classrooms within regular education. Is it fair that we double or triple the special education class sizes at the same time? The answer to that is, of course, no. To do this would be to take advantage of those students with disabilities--the most vulnerable in our school population.

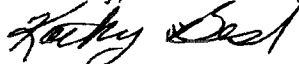
In talking with many teachers from various school districts throughout our state it is guaranteed that if the class size maximums are lost, our classrooms will be so populated that education will not be able to take place.

Administrators have been verbalizing their intentions to increase class size since the rumors of Chapter 14 changes came out. If the maximums go, the saddest thing will be this: The only way we will ever be able to make a class size smaller again is to fight the system AFTER a classroom of children have failed to make progress during a whole school year. And it could take at least another year to fight the system to make that particular classroom smaller in population again. How can you justify a 3rd or 4th grade student losing a year or more of direct instruction in reading, and thus making minimal progress throughout those years? The students will be affected for life. How many children will be affected? This will be a nightmare for parents, teachers, schools, and for the students themselves.

The AFT has a plan that will give administrations the flexibility they need, yet still mandate quality education for our students with special needs. Please consider supporting their proposal.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Kathy Bish
RR 1 Box 52
New Bethlehem, PA 16242
(814)-275-4562

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: Terc27@cs.com
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2001 8:28 PM
To: IRRC@irc.state.pa.us
Subject: Chapter 14 Special Education Regulations

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been teaching in the field of special education for the past 24 years and I am requesting that you reject the new Chapter 14 regulations. I think it would be a terrible injustice to children with special needs. These new regulations would inhibit us from meeting the needs of these students.

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
REVIEW COMMISSION
D

3/6/2001

Original: 2144

March 2, 2001

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -9 AM 9:48
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Lacey

*It is difficult enough to administer
one-on-one instruction as part of "specially
designed instruction" when you have
K-2 (16) so far with a part-time aide!*

Original: 2144



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Settles".

RECEIVED
2001 MAR 22 AM 9:22
INDEPENDENT
REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION
90

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

RECEIVED

2001 MAR -6 AM 8:56

REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Petruno
President

Central Columbia School Board

*I am in favor of increased funding of
state mandated special needs requirements.*

J.H. PETRUNO
1204 Seneca Road, 17815
BLOOMSBURG PA 17005

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

Original; 2144

RECEIVED

2001 MAR 27 AM 9:49

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



PO Box 158
Wysox, PA 18854-0158

(570) 265-7929 • (800) 962-5404
Fax: (570) 265-7062

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Patsy Seelley
180 High St.
Troy, Pa. 16947



IRRC

Original: 2144

From: Lorraine Ratajczak [ratajczak@pobox.upenn.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2001 4:38 PM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: vote NO to proposed Chapter 14 revisions

Below is a copy of a letter I am also sending to each commissioner via fax and U.S. Mail.

=====

Lorraine A. Ratajczak Internet: ratajczak@isc.upenn.edu
-----begin letter-----

1429 Center Street
West Chester, PA 19382-6528
March 2, 2001

Mr. John R. McGinley, Jr., esq.
Chairman, Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA, 17101

Dear Mr. McGinley:

I am the mother of an eight-year-old boy with autism. When he was first diagnosed at age 3 1/2, he did not greet people, or respond when others said hello. Though he could talk, he could not ask for what he wanted using words; he would take me by the hand and use my hand to reach for what he wanted. If I couldn't guess what he was trying to make me get for him, he would become so frustrated that he would scream and kick. He did not play with other children, and when he did play at all, he repeatedly rolled a toy car back and forth in front of his eyes, watching the wheels spin.

Today, he spontaneously says, "hi!" to others, and responds when they greet him. He uses complete sentences to request things. He still tends to ignore other kids, but he plays appropriately with playground equipment, Legos, computer games, and other toys. He is even beginning to learn to read, write, and count. There is hope that he will grow up to become a contributing member of society.

My son would never have made this progress without the help of special education. The protections currently provided in Chapter 14-such as class size limits and the inclusion of a behavior plan in his Individualized Education Program (IEP) -have been vital for him to succeed in meeting his IEP goals.

However, I have heard that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission is considering revising Chapter 14 and removing many of the protections it currently provides. This would have many unpleasant consequences for my son and for the many other special education students in the Commonwealth.

These students face so many obstacles. Please help prevent the proposed version of Chapter 14 from handicapping these students even more.

I urge you to reject the proposed changes to Chapter 14.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter!

Very truly yours,

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:33
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

Lorraine A. Ratajczak

-----end letter-----

PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

TED KIRSCH
President

(215) 587-6738



Original: 2144

March 2, 2001

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown 2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Commissioner McGinley:

On March 8, The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission is scheduled to consider state Board of Education regulations (Chapter 14) that would remove any class-size limit for special education classes.

The Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Federations of Teachers strongly oppose this regulatory change and urge you *not* to approve it.

The question you must ask before approving regulations that eliminate class-size maximums is whether this change will *help* special-needs children in Pennsylvania or *hurt* them.

We believe that removing the cap on class size for special education will hurt students with physical and learning disabilities irreparably.

This regulatory change would deprive special-needs students of the individual instructional support they need, make it more difficult than it already is for school districts to attract and retain qualified special education teachers and undermine efforts to make schools safe and orderly.

Republicans and Democrats agree (and research shows unequivocally) that reducing class size is the single most effective tool in the arsenal of educational reforms available today. Public schools in President Bush's home state are succeeding in large measure because Texas' educational reform package included reducing class size.

Lowering the number of children in each class has produced lasting achievement gains particularly for disadvantaged students, increased the number of students graduating from high school on time, raised the number of students taking college entrance examinations and narrowed the achievement gap between white and minority students.

201 MAR -7 10:00
REVIEW COMMISSION

2

If these are the results of smaller classes for regular students, how much more crucial, then, is maintaining lower class size for students identified as having special physical, cognitive and behavioral needs?

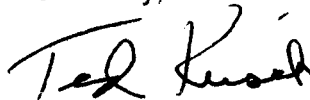
School districts want, and in some instances need, greater flexibility in assigning students. But eliminating class-size limits is not the answer.

The Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers has proposed an alternative that would keep the class-size maximums and retain caseloads but allow schools to exceed them in 25 percent of their classes without requesting a waiver and in 33 percent of their classes with a waiver from the state Department of Education.

This proposal maintains Pennsylvania's high standards special education classrooms while providing the flexibility school districts sometimes need.

In the interest of providing high-quality education for children with special needs and attracting and retaining talented, new teachers for those classrooms, we urge you reject removing the limit on special education class size.

Sincerely,



TED KIRSCH
President

TK/hmg
opeiu 32
afl-cio

Original: 2144

RECEIVED

2001 MAR 20 PM 12:52

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Laura Millard

L. Millard
BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RR 3 BOX 220
NEW MILFORD, PA 18834-9503

Original: #2144

Mr. Robert Nyce
Executive Director IRRC
333 Market Street 14th floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED

2001 MAR -2 10:34:04

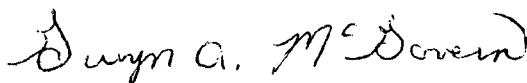
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Nyce,

CLASSROOM SIZE AND ADVOCATES:

I am the Parent of a 3rd grade girl in Manoa School in Havertown PA. She goes to Special Education for Reading and Math Support. I was really disturbed when I was informed there would be no limit in the Special Ed. Classroom size. I don't feel that this makes sense. These children need the small size class of 8-10 children per teacher. Also, many Parents need an advocate when they attend their child's IEP meeting. Most Parents can't afford the costly expense of an attorney. After all we are all looking for better education for our children.

Sincerely,



Gwyn A. McGovern

cc: Hon. Thaddeus Kirkland
29 E. Fifth Street
Chester PA 19013

Hon Robert Flick
Ed. Committee Member
229 W. Lancaster Ave
Devon PA 19333

Original: 2144



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Fallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Aric Larson

*Aric is a Special Ed. Student
in Williamsport Area School District
He has never been in a n
inclusion class + we're glad!
He has superior life skills
because of his Special Ed
classes!! (Small sizes)*

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

Original: 2144

IRRC

From: RettaEH@aol.com
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2001 1:06 PM
To: IRRC@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: March 8th vote on Capter 14

Dear Ms Mary Lou Harris,

You must reject the proposed Chapter 14. Our children struggle so hard to get an equal chance for a good education. Please don't take away the rights that they do have!

Thank you,
Loretta Hoglund
265 Orchard Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15228

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -6 PM 3:32
REVIEW COMMISSION
1

3/6/2001



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Charles Joseph
6th Grade Teacher
Wazleton Area School Dist.

*P.S. One way to promote quality education
is to limit class size especially at the elementary
level.*

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

Original: 2144

RECEIVED

2001 MAR 20 AM 11:15

March 2, 2001

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kristen Hinkley

K. Hinkley
BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
RR 3 BOX 220
NEW MILFORD, PA 18834-9503

MAR-02-2001 13:17

PSEA WILKES-BARRE

5708193268 P.02

Original: 2144

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Hebbard
1104 E. Longwood Dr.
Clark Summit, PA 18411

If we don't set the conditions up for special students to be successful, they will fail — if they fail, we will have to provide for them ALL their lives I would much rather have them succeed and they can be contributing members of our society.

Original: 2144

RECEIVED
2001 MAR 15 AM 8:47
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathryn A. Gregory
PO Box 57
Lehman, Pa 18627



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

Original: 2144

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Naster

TEACHER

Blue Ridge H.S.

Blue Ridge H.S.
RR 3 Box 220
New Milford, PA 18834

RECEIVED
2001 MAR 23 AM 9:19
INDEPENDENT
REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RECEIVED

2001 MAR 27 AM 10:05

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



PO Box 158
Wysox, PA 18854-0158

(570) 265-7929 • (800) 962-5404
Fax: (570) 265-7062

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Dennis Forst
President - CAEA



Original: 2144

RECEIVED

2001 MAR 26 AM 10:09

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Suzanne G. Thibault

Original: 2144

RECEIVED
2001 MAR 16 AM 8:56

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Chris M. Scott

IRRC # 2144 Agency: State Board of Education
Title: Special Education Services and Programs

IRRC # 2144 Agency: State Board of Education
Title: Special Education Services and Programs

IRRC # 2144 Agency: State Board of Education
Title: Special Education Services and Programs

[illegible]

Original: 2144



PO Box 158
Wysox, PA 18854-0158

(570) 265-7929 • (800) 962-5404
Fax: (570) 265-7062

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Naomi Eckell
5 Valley View Dr
Troy, Pa 16947

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -9 10:11 AM
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION



IRRC # 2144

Agency: State Board of Education

Title: Special Education Services and Programs

(Form E)

NAME	ADDRESS ALL THE SAME ADDRESS	DATE Correspondence
Robert J. Brown	No Address	3/2/01
William P. Wolfe	No Address	3/2/01
Debbie Walter	No Address	3/2/01
Bonnie Y. Avery	No Address	3/2/01
Preston Edsell	No Address	3/2/01
Marjorie Deemer Wilkins	No Address	3/2/01
Naomi Edsell	5 Valley View Drive Troy, PA 16947	3/2/01
Steven Slerin	No Address	3/2/01
Soni Haflett	No Address	3/2/01
Gwen Ritter	No Address	3/2/01
Carol H. Morgan	No Address	3/2/01
Dianna Thompson	No Address	3/2/01
Donna C. Packard	No Address	3/2/01
Patricia S. Shaffer	No Address	3/2/01
Joyce A. Roof	No Address	3/2/01
Mathew Thorne	No Address	3/2/01
Kathryn McAndrew	No Address	3/2/01
Michelle S. Burrell	No address	3/2/01
Lisa A Zulinski	No address	3/2/01
Deborah L. Crosby	No Address	3/2/01
Warren Heinly	No Address	3/2/01
Terry Leet	No Address	3/2/01
Tamilyn J. Ebert	No address	3/2/01
Susan J. Keyes	No Address	3/2/01
Rebecca Mitallo	No Address	3/2/01
Susan Witroski Joleen Verbonitz Danille V. Bernstein	No Address	3/2/01
Kari Mas	No Address	3/2/01
Thomas Kulesya	No Address	3/2/01
Sherry Walsh	No Address	3/2/01
Kathryn J. Decker	No address	3/2/01
Tracie S. Gelatt	No Address	3/2/01
Carol V. Wainbreiger	No Address	3/2/01
Donald R. Cook	No address	3/2/01

Mary Iacovino	No Address	3/2/01
Ronald T. Guse	RR1 Box 1739 Moscow, PA 18444	3/2/01
Thomas Box	No address	3/2/01
Kathryn Fleraburg	No address	3/2/01
Ellen Jennings	No Address	3/2/01
Elizabeth V. Carmody	No address	3/2/01
Gene Hatner	No address	3/2/01
Tammy Rickard	No address	3/2/01
Laura E. Ruddy	No Address	3/2/01
Sheila Vauderwell	No address	3/2/01
Ruth Hauenatein	No address	3/2/01
Andrea Murray	No address	3/2/01
Linda J. Smith	RR2, Box 206 Olyphant, PA 18447	3/2/01
George R. Saderut	No Address	3/2/01
Sal Valern	No Address	3/2/01
Brenda Fritz	No address	3/2/01
Bonnie Beers	No Address	3/2/01
Richard Fledersad	No Address	3/2/01
Kenneth Rosencrance	P O Box 83 Troy, PA 16947	3/2/01
Karen Cino	146 Brown Street Ashley, PA 18706	3/2/01
Robert J. Barletta	4289 E Wyndemere Circle Schnecksville, PA 18078	3/2/01
Betty Walko	No Address	3/2/01
Barb Swinski	5 Connelly Street Wilker-Barre, PA 18702	3/2/01
LuAnn Carey	No Address	3/2/01
Roberta M. Arnold	No Address	3/2/01
James R. Kaufman	No Address	3/2/01
Bettinia Campbell	No Address	3/2/01
Unreadable	No Address	3/2/01
Melissa Bellows	No Address	3/2/01
Lois J. Wolfe	RD2, Box 77 Troy, PA 16947	3/2/01
Mary Abrew	No Address	3/2/01
Alicia Keast	No Address	3/2/01
Timothy R. unreadable	No Address	3/2/01
Lori B. Ahern	No Address	3/2/01
Bill McElroy	No Address	3/2/01
Holly N. Stat	No address	3/2/01
Penny M. Roberts	No address	3/2/01
Noreen Kennedy	No Address	3/2/01

Virginia Motsko	No Address	3/2/01
Bonnie Austin	No Address	3/2/01
Barbara S. Rodda	No Address	3/2/01
Patricia J. Kowalek	No Address	3/2/01
Peter Henly	Towanda, PA	3/2/01
Ann Schweighofer	No Address	3/2/01
Michael S. Miller	No address	3/2/01
Julie Cerra	No Address	3/2/01
Susan M. Klikus	No Address	3/2/01
Sharon Frantz	No address	3/2/01
Kurt M. Priesten	No Address	3/2/01
Christine Sindone	No Address	3/2/01
Greg DeHoun	No address	3/2/01
Jeannine Duncan	No Address	3/2/01
Amy L. Osmond	No Address	3/2/01
Patricia R. May	No address	3/2/01
Scott L. Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Leo E. Salmon	No address	3/2/01
Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Kellee Cyna	No address	3/2/01
Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Charles Hesslin	No Address	3/2/01
Lawrence F. Celig	No address	3/2/01
Maurine H. Gehring	No address	3/2/01
Dal C. Austin	No address	3/2/01
James R. Crawford	No address	3/2/01
Clifford F. Robinson	No address	3/2/01
Linda Carr	No address	3/2/01
Debra Moore	No address	3/2/01
Dolores J. Smith	No address	3/2/01
Thomas Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Maxine B. Hessler	No address	3/2/01
Christa Binche	No addresss	3/2/01
Anne Marie Ermolovich	10 Tanya Drive Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Joseph Knight	3730 Lauynie Avenue Moosic, PA 18507	3/2/01
John Kosek	P O Box 176 Moscow, PA 18444	3/2/01
Robert Hordich	304 Stoney Creek Road Clarks Summit, PA 18411	3/2/01
Nancy Hordick	304 Stoney Creek Road Clarks Summit, PA 18411	3/2/01

Heather Mahon	23 Lake View Drive Clarks Summit, PA 18411	3/2/01
Ken Barriansky	1039 Spring Street Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Deb Kapelan	RT HC1, Box 2356 Thornhurst, PA 18424	3/2/01
Anne Dillon	542 S. Main Street Taylor, PA 18517	3/2/01
Denis A. Yanashot	1649 Sanderson Ave Scranton, PA 18509	3/2/01
Kathryn C. Bekovich	P O Box 37 Lake Winola, PA 18625	3/2/01
Joanne Corey	102 Laurie Lane Pittston, PA 18640	3/2/01
Elaine F Stanpier	137 Sussex Street Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
June Willis	131 Henderson Street Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Michael Unreadable	1818 Wayne Ave Scranton, PA 18508-2730	3/2/01
Diane Croom	RR1, Box 1333 Gouldsboro, PA 18424	3/2/01
Jo-Ann Fisher	808 Hope Street Duryea, PA 18642	3/2/01
Roseann Bruteio	105 Cheyenne Drive Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Catherine Crossin	216 E. Marton Street Old forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Theresa T. Kosth	P O Box 176 Moscov, PA 18444	3/2/01
Maria Szynorski	603 Maple Street Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Joan P. Lengel	203 Donny Drive Moscow, PA 18444	3/2/01
Mary Grace Yeniashtot	1649 Sanderson Ave Scranton, PA 18509	3/2/01
Ann Summa	P O Box 594 Moscow, PA 18444	3/2/01
Anna M. Adomiak	711 Hawthorne Street Avoca, PA 18641	3/2/01

PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rosemary Kramer, Pres.
John Brill, V. Pres.
Kevin Klinger, Sec.
David Lukasewicz, Treas.
Thomas Nickels, Esq.



Marc Griffiths
Wayne Kurtz
Edward Lehr
Terry Wolfe
Dr. Richard Russell, Jr.

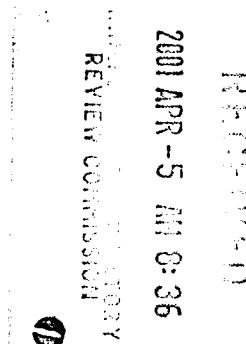
EMBARGOED MATERIAL

Dr. Lawrence J. Mussoline, Jr.
Superintendent

March 29, 2001

ORIGINAL: 2144

John R. McGinley, Jr.
Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Dear Mr. McGinley and Commission Members:

The purpose of this correspondence is to request that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approve Chapter 14 as submitted by the State Board of Education. This proposed regulation has been discussed, debated and scrutinized for quite some time. The final form provides to Pennsylvania's children with disabilities the full range of protections offered through federal law. In addition, Chapter 14 also puts forth services and structure unique to our Commonwealth. This is a sound regulation that mandates that educators meet, without compromise, the needs of our special education population.

As a school superintendent, I am most concerned about having reasonable flexibility in establishing appropriate class sizes for special education students. When the Commission disapproved the proposed regulation on March 8th, you did so because you were not persuaded that exceptional children would receive the necessary staff attention to achieve IEP goals if class size limits were not in place. I want to take this opportunity to offer you realistic rationale for not mandating class size limits.

Quite often, school administrators find themselves forced into making program decisions based on the current class size restrictions. For example, consider a hypothetical situation where a student named Randy, who is in need of learning support, moves from another Pennsylvania district into my school district. In reviewing Randy's IEP, we learn that he is in seventh grade and receives his math, science and English programs in a learning support classroom. The district and parents agree that Randy's IEP is appropriate; however, as we prepare to implement Randy's program, we realize that an obstacle exists. There is only one age appropriate learning support class in the building and the teacher informs us that eight students (the maximum currently allowed) are already enrolled in the math and English classes.

At this point, our choices are limited. Even though Randy would benefit by attending his new neighborhood school, due to this artificially established limit of eight students per class, our only choice may be to bus him 25 minutes to a neighboring district. Sure, there are other options. We could hire a special education teacher on an hourly basis and provide Randy with one-to-one instruction during those periods if, (and mind you, it is a big if), if we could locate and employ a special education teacher on an hourly basis which is rather unrealistic. We could also start a second learning support class in the building, but again, we are faced with issues such as finding a qualified teacher and attempting to locate appropriate space in a building that is already at maximum usage.

Mandating strict class size limits is just not fair to students. We take away options not only when students move into our district but also when students struggle in regular education and could benefit from a special education class only to find a sign that says "no vacancy". On behalf of myself and the other superintendents in Schuylkill County, I strongly urge you to consider the necessity of not mandating maximum class size limits. Our experience tells us that such limits have functionally closed the doors on appropriate special education options for many students.

Thank you for providing me the time to address the issue of why class size limits actually serve to limit educational opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Mussoline, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Lawrence J. Mussoline, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Original: 2144

Janice L. Matthew, Ph.D.
577 Thorneliffe Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
412-429-8453

RECEIVED

2001 MAR 19 AM 10:12

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 13, 2001

The Honorable Jess Stairs
East Wing Room 43A
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

The Honorable James J. Rhoades
Senate Box 203029
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3029

Dear Sirs:

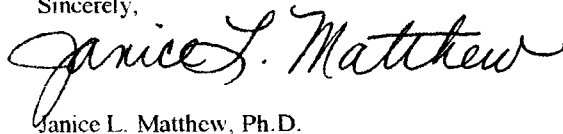
I am writing to express my extreme disappointment with the recent action of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) this past week regarding their disapproval of the proposed revisions to Pennsylvania's Special Education Regulations and Standards. I am shocked at this action because the Bureau of Special Education and State Board of Education have done an outstanding job of working collaboratively with a large number of agencies to write state special education regulations. Both the House and Senate Education Committees are to be commended for their thoughtful consideration and acceptance of the proposed state regulations. The IRRC's disapproval of these regulations on March 8, 2001 is reprehensible!

The proposed Chapter 14 regulations that were rejected by the IRRC would have significantly reduced the costs for MAWA holders in Pennsylvania while improving the quality of Early Intervention services for young children, three to five years of age with developmental delays. One specific example drives home the irresponsible, uninformed action of the IRRC. It was proposed that the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) for Early Intervention be completed every two years although federal law only mandates its completion every three years. It is appalling and shocking that the IRRC wants to return to the completion of the Comprehensive Evaluation Report EVERY YEAR!! Every hour spent completing unnecessary CERs is time spent away from children and service delivery. I am shocked with their decision and invite them to spend time in the classrooms where Early Intervention services are delivered and to really talk with teachers. I think if the IRRC really knew the issues and the paperwork burden imposed by their decision, they would have to reverse their opinion!

The recent decision of the IRRC needs to be overturned immediately so that the proposed Chapter 14 special education regulations can be implemented. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of my comments.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at home (412-429-8453) or at work (412-323-3960).

Sincerely,



Janice L. Matthew, Ph.D.

c: Governor Thomas Ridge
Dr. Peter Garland
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Dr. Richard Price

Original: 2144

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2001 MAR 13 AM 9:27

REVIEW COMMISSION



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michael Curran

1400 West St.
Honesdale PA. 18431

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action

IRRC # 2144**Agency: State Board of Education****Title: Special Education Services and Programs**

(Form F)		
NAME	ADDRESS	DATE Correspondence
Michael Curian	1400 West Street Honsdale, PA 18431	3/2/01 – Rec'd 3/13/01
Rita Williams	No Address	3/2/01
Shirley Larhrop	No Address	3/2/01
Kimberly Nate	No Address	3/2/01
Claire I. Foreman	No address	3/2/01
Barbara J. Brown	No Address	3/2/01
D. Palfrey	No Address	3/2/01
Sue Kaufman	No Address	3/2/01
Amy Williams	No address	3/2/01
W. E. Wyckoff	No Address	3/2/01
Susan Bugbee	No Address	3/2/01
Linda O. Maius	No Address	3/2/01
Nancy Kinsman	No Address	3/2/01
Jane M. Curran	No Address	3/2/01
William J. Kennedy	No Address	3/2/01
Kelly M. O'Neill	No Address	3/2/01
Unreadable	No address	3/2/01
Patricia Jung	No Address	3/2/01
Cathleen Keen	No Address	3/2/01
Mitchell Len	P O Box 745 Hallstead, PA 18822	3/2/01
Beth Campfield	No Address	3/2/01 – Rec'd 3/14/01
Stephanie Olnier	No Address	3/2/01
Carol A. Lam	No Address	3/2/01
Judith M. Vanderpool	No Address	3/2/01
Clyde R. Garvin	No Address	3/2/01
Kathy Kennedf	No Address	3/2/01
James Craig	No Address	3/2/01
Patricia L. Mooney	No Address	3/2/01
Kristy L. Bleck	No Address	3/2/01
Mary J. Chanderlain	No address	3/2/01
Sharon Wolfe	No Address	3/2/01
David Argeloni	No Address	3/2/01

March 2, 2001

Original: 2144

Dear Robert,

RECEIVED
2001 MAR -7 PM 10:46
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF NEW YORK

We wish to request that **Chapter 14 be rejected** as it attempts to eliminate the class size maximums for special education. Please forward our requests to the Commissioners of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Glick

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

IRRC # 2144

Agency: State Board of Education

Title: Special Education Services and Programs

Embargoed Mail

(Form D)		
NAME	ADDRESS ALL THE SAME ADDRESS	DATE Correspondence
Laura Mikalik	Grove City, PA 16127	3/2/01
Kathy Bell	Same	3/2/01
Michael Paculis	Same	3/2/01
Claudia Segmund	Same	3/2/01
Christine A. Palace	Same	3/2/01
Mary Palbo	Same	3/2/01
Janell Danielson	Same	3/2/01
Sue Mathieson	Same	3/2/01
Nancy Lange	Same	3/2/01
Polly May	Same	3/2/01
Linda Fee	Same	3/2/01
Ann Stinson	Same	3/2/01
Chad Porter	Same	3/2/01
Nikki Williams	Same	3/2/01
Connie Slezak	Same	3/2/01
Laurel Bodnar	Same	3/2/01
Noville Donovan	Same	3/2/01

MAR-02-2001 13:17

PSEA WILKES-BARRE

5708193268 P.02

Original: 2144

200103-7 11:07

RECEIVED

02

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

LACKAWANNA TRAIL JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
P.O. BOX 85
FACTORYVILLE, PA 18419

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

IRRC # 2144

Agency: State Board of Education

Title: Special Education Services and Programs

Embargoed Mail

(Form C)		
NAME	ADDRESS ALL THE SAME ADDRESS	DATE Correspondence
Susan S. Saxton	Lackawanna Trail Jr/Sr High School Factoryville, PA 18419	3/2/01
Patricia Heal	Same	3/2/01
Curtis Hepler	Same	3/2/01
Cheryl Manchester	Same	3/2/01
Donald Connelly	Same	3/2/01
Anthony Dalusie	Same	3/2/01
Stan Harden	Same	3/2/01
Jeffrey Wasulwok	Same	3/2/01
John Richtie	Same	3/2/01
Phyllis E. DeWolfe	Same	3/2/01
Donald J. Zupp	Same	3/2/01
David J. Brown	Same	3/2/01
Sherry Hayduk	Same	3/2/01
Kimberly A. Botticelli	Same	3/2/01
Alexandra C. Burnell	Same	3/2/01
Leanora Chimil	Same	3/2/01

Original; #2144

RECEIVED

February 12, 2001

via facsimile

2001 MAR -6 AM 8:06

Letter to: Senator Mike Opake Senator David Brightbill
 Hon. Sam Rohrer, Education Committee Hon. Dennis Leh
 Hon. Paul W. Semmel Hon. Sheila Miller Hon. Dante Santoni
 Hon. David G. Argoff

To our Senators and House Representatives,

We, the undersigned are very concerned about the current Chapter 14 and Chapter 342 items due to be voted upon on February 14, 2001 by the House and Senate Education Committees. We fear the impact these changes will have on the delivery of special education programs in Pennsylvania.

We urge you to support voting against Chapter 14.

Print Name	Sign Name	Borough	Street Address
Kathleen Perth	Kathleen Perth	Reading	1510 J Front St
Kristen Macready	Kristen Macready	Pikeville	411 Keim Rd. Bristow
Susan Becker	Susan J. Becker	Mt. Penn.	1940 Woodvale Ave
Ginny Lerch	Ginny Lerch	Cumru	209 Andover Ave. W. Lowr.
Doreen Johnson	Doreen Johnson	Wyomissing	1532 Fairfield Ave. 1960
Jean Liscala	Jean Liscala	S. Heidelberg	924 Spatsman Rd. Wernersville
Stephanie Viola	Stephanie Viola	Phoenixville	1011 Cherry St
Louise Miller	Louise Miller	Spring Twp.	2306 Kay Ct. West Lawn 19609
Barb Fromuth	Barbara Fromuth	Wyomissing	46 Valley Rd. Wyomissing 19610
Brenda Eaton-Elezovic	Brenda Eaton	Shillington	44 Pearl St Shillington 19605
Carol DiInnocentis	Carol DiInnocentis	S. Heidelberg	124 Fox Hill Dr. Wernersville PA 19686
MARY KASBERA	Mary Kasbera	Wyomissing	1528 Meadowlark Rd Wyo PA 19610
Cynthia M. Wise	Cynthia M. Wise	Sinking Spring	564 Penn Ave Sinking Spring Pa 19608
Amber Mintz	Amber Mintz	So. Heidelberg	528 Hill Rd. Wernersville PA 19686

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3-5-01	# of pages	1
To	Commissioner McGinley	From	Amber Mintz		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #		Fax #			

ORIGINAL: 2145 RECEIVED

2001 APR -5 PM 8:32

REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

EMBEDDED MATERIAL

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Baivian Murphy
638 S. 10th St.
Scranton, Pa 18505
570 346 3182

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

Original: 2144



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

ED MATERIAL

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Schuylkill A. U. 2
PO Box 130

Martins PA 17950

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

IRRC # 2144

Agency: State Board of Education

Title: Special Education Services and Programs

Embargoed Mail

(Form B)		
NAME	ADDRESS	DATE Correspondence
Romayne Jusysu	P.O. Box 130 Marlin, PA 17950	03-07-01
Richard Alichnie	No address	03-07-01
Darlis D. Allen	P.O. Box 709 Greentown, PA 18426	03-07-01
Anthony L. Kiety	919 Hudson Street Hawley, PA 18428	03-07-01
Connie Kudrich	111 Keystone Street Hawley, PA 18428	03-07-01
Marsha B. Eaton	P.O. Box 128 Wyaluseug, PA 18853	03-07-01
Dubie C. Nichols	HC 1, Box 125 Paupack, PA 18451	03-07-01
Scott J. Kitteeny	HC 1, Box 2164 Tatton, PA 18464	03-07-01
Colleen Connors	RR 2, Box 604 Hawley, PA 18428	03-07-01
Betty J. Mang	RR 5, Box 1395 Honesdale, PA 18431	03-07-01
Mary Evans	HC 1, Box 135A Parysack, PA 18451	03-07-01
Ruth Lefchack	1006 Blakely Street Jessup, PA 18434	03-07-01
Carol H. Dunn	RR 1, Box 1047 Beach Lake, PA 18405	03-07-01
Mrs. Edythe L. Gaydeskuwski	36 Seatt Street Swoyersville, PA 18704	03-07-01
Robert L. Keefer	RD 1 Box 686 Hawley, PA 18428	03-07-01
Marilyn Feldman	221 River Street Forty Fort, PA 18704 WVWEA	03-07-01
Nancy A. McAndrew	No Address	03-07-01

Mel Vogler	315 Penn Avenue Hawley, PA 18428	03-07-01
P. G. Reiter	303 Pheasant Hill Drive Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2052	11-28-00
Coralie & Scott Moorhead	2545 Rosemont Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	11-28-00
Inge B. Webster	2909 Mapleshad Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-28-00
Mark & Wendy Simpkins	703 Preston Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	11-28-00
Laurilee Cummings	835 Penn Street Bryn Mawr, PA 19003	11-25-00
E. Dintzis	2942 Oakford Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-24-00
Carole Sowers	111 Buck Lane Haverford, PA 19041	11-28-00
Judy & John Donnelly	2910 Rising Sun Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-30-00
Kathy Janson	838 Martin Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	11-27-00
Shaun Policarpo	8 Westfield Road Ardmore, PA 19003-1010	11-27-00
Penny Davidoff	113 Stockton Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	11-30-00
Elizabeth Luff	2942 Haverford Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-30-00
Gro Adrnes	2946 Nornande Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-27-00
Michele Kulp	759 Hathaway Lane Ardmore, PA 19003	11-27-00
Shirley McClintock	316 Madison Road Springfield, PA 19064	11-30-00
Filippa DePaulo	664 Woodcrest Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	11-30-00
Ingrid Sidorov	2023 Olcott Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	11-30-00
Elizabeth V. Fitzpatrick	2906 Maple Shade Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-27-00
Kathleen M. Rado	243 Sweetbriar Circle King of Prussia, PA 19406	11-30-00
Marla S. Feder	15 Bambi Lane Haverford, PA 19041-1132	11-27-00
Dr. Murugan Anaudarayour	924 Deer Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-1-00
Mary Schreiber	643 Georges Lane Ardmore, PA 19003	11-28-00

Debra Vandegrift	1091 Flora Lane Boothwyn, PA 19061	12-1-00
Cohen	9 Spring Mill Lane Haverford, PA 19041-1136	12-1-00
M. Beale	727 Preston Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-1-00
Margaret Hagenbuch	667 Cricket Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	11-28-00
Robin Willis	854 Buck Lane Haverford, PA 19041	11-28-00
Beth MacGusland	2403 Barker Circle West Chester, PA 19380	12-4-00
Suzanne L. Wevare	704 Schiller Avenue Narberth, PA 19072-2024	12-4-00
Majorie R. Brennan	859 Penn Street Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3810	11-27-00
Lorette Tofani	634 Fox Field Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	11-29-00
Susan and Rick Carter	681 Aubrey Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	11-28-00
I. Pearlman	2912 Rising Sun Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-28-00
Bradley Family %Jane M. Scull	2 Wickam Road Ardmore, PA 19003	11-29-00
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Dobkin	5045 Brittany Lane Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-4-00
Nicole L. Redman	800 Biddle Street Ardmore, PA 19003	11-29-00
Betty Cerio	761 Hathaway Lane Ardmore, PA 19003	11-30-00
Maryann Schlosser	2437 Chestnut Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	11-30-00
Chris & Doreen Cummings	2816 Morris Road Ardmore, PA 19003-1911	12-4-00
Amy Murphy	758 Oakview Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-4-00
Chris Sessa	117 Lee Circle Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-2-00
Tammy Christiansen	3720 Darby Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	11-30-00
Joseph Ryan Gallagher	8217 Humerford Ardmore, PA 19003	12-1-00
Cindi Kirshner	304 Pheasant Hill Drive Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-5-00
Holly Frank	6300 Ardmore Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	12-1-00

Loreta Rosselli	836 Penn Street Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	11-30-00
Stephen Loughin	650 Loraine Street Ardmore, PA 19003	12-4-00
Ronald Watson	104 Morlyn Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3738	12-4-00
Cynthia Weisson	764 Applegate Lane Rosemont, PA 19101	12-4-00
Joanne Lare	220 Fairway Road Paoli, PA 19304	12-6-00
W. Hinchman	205 Morlyn Ave Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-5-00
Pam McKee Mark Dovoigin	629 Overhill Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-5-00
Elena Levitan	155 Coopertown Road Havenford, PA 19041	12-1-00
Patricia & George Barr	860 Martin Avenue Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-4-00
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Ballet	2733 St. Mary's Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-5-00
Mike Lawson	2504 E. Countyline Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-7-00
Lorraine Tracanna	2612 Chestnut Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	12-7-00
Ann and Bob Robinson, Jr.	363 Penn Street Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3310	12-11-00
Kim Gongol	153 Clemson Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-6-00
Donna Elbersen	729 Hathaway Lane Ardmore, PA 19003	12-9-00
Mary Lazar John Armando	29449 Moms Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-8-00
Denise Corrigan	530 Fountain Street Philadelphia, PA 19128	12-8-00
Karen B. Carney	2505 Chestnut Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	12-12-00
Ellen Dietrich	824 Penn Street Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-13-00
Lynn C. Hepp	2329 Avon Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-9-00
Michael Brooks	5069 Brittany Lane Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	12-10-00
Lisa Pratt	700 Ardmore Avenue #603 Ardmore, PA 19003	12-9-00
Unreadable (Irvin Patir - per MLH)	No address	12-11-00

Kate deRiel	24 Strathmore Road Havertown, PA 19083	12-14-00
Isabelle Vesey	25 Williams Road Haverford, PA 19041-1125	12-13-00
Joe Doran	659 Georges Lane Ardmore, PA 19003	12-19-00
Joy Bennett	1224 Garfield Avenue Havertown, PA 19087	12-15-00
Susan G. Swanson	2910 Mapleshade Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-21-00
Jennifer Archard	812 Ardmore Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003	12-21-00
Clardia Gallagher	633 Overhill Road Ardmore, PA 19003	12-18-00
Judi & Henry Bisbee	109 Stockton Road Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3731	12-26-00
Jon M. Baldwin	2314 Bryn Mawr Avenue Ardmore, PA 19003-2907	12-27-00
Lorraine & Daniel Lipowitz	2414 Bryn Mawr Ave Ardmore, PA 19003	1-3-01
Juanita W. Goss	637 Haverford Road Haverford, PA 19041-1231	12-27-00
David and Nancy Hart	234 Rodney Circle Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	1-16-01
Laura T. Cromwell	125 Lee Circle Bryn Mawr, PA 19010	1-19-01
Cheryl L. Smith	2809 Saint Marys Road Ardmore, PA 19003-2006	1-29-01
Linda K. Queizso	P O Box 608 Lake Ariel, PA 18436	3/2/01
Lorraine M. Kolcun	522 Spring St, Apt 6 Hawley, PA 18428	3/2/01
M. Louise Fulmer	No Address	3/2/01
Barbara Fabin	HCI Box 362 Lakeville, PA 18438	3/2/01
Harold E. Mang, Jr.	RR #6 Box 1395 Honesdale, PA 18431	3/2/01
Ray Ofner	379 Belmont St Waymart, PA 18472	3/2/01
Vicki Schmitt	152 Ryan Hill Road Lake Ariel, PA 18436	3/2/01
Fred Shaffmaster	RR #1, Box 379 Dalton, PA 18414	3/2/01
Rosario Charambura	RR1 Box 35 Wyalusingm PA 18853	3/2/01
Mary Skillings	Box 471	3/2/01

	Wyalusing, PA 18853	
Margot A Clauss	HCI Box 2108 Tafton, PA 18464	3/2/01
Robert Vogler	315 Penn Ave Hawley, PA 18428	3/2/01
Jane Ganstra	HC 62, Box 462 Honesdale, PA 18431	3/2/01
James R. Ball	HCI Box 2233 Tafton, PA 18464	3/2/01
Michael J. Sleventain	No Address	3/2/01
Joe Reuaid	No Address	3/2/01
Lynn K. Welles	Rra Box 8 Wyalusing, PA 18853	3/2/01
Ann Hogenya	284 Lawrence Street Edwardsville, PA 18704	3/2/01
Bob Vowak	No Address	3/2/01
Ward Behnard	P O Box 201 Wyalusing, PA 18853	3/2/01
Monique Lautenschlager	No Address	3/2/01
Sera I. Rosenkrams	No Address	3/2/01
Darlene Stash	No Address	3/2/01
Shirley Scranton	P O Box 211' Clarks Summit, PA 18411	3/2/01
Laurie W. Manney	P O Box 27 Stevensville, PA 18845	3/2/01
Elizabeth M. Slovenkai	No Address	3/2/01
Ruth P. Tanery	No Address	3/2/01
John Ginda	No Address	3/2/01
Barbara Pulner	No Address	3/2/01
Don Icerlice, Jr.	627 W. 23 rd Street Hazleton, PA 18201	3/2/01
Paul E. Lautinschlager	No Address	3/2/01
Gene Potten	95 Silver Brook Road McAdoo, PA 18237	3/2/01
Thomas P. Murphy	172 Terrace Street Carbondale, PA 18407	3/2/01
Sally Kennard	RR#1 Box 234 Harveys Lake, PA 18618	3/2/01
John R. Hikle	2252 High Road Cresco, PA 18326	3/2/01
Nancy K. Scheirer	317 Colbert Street Stroudsburg, PA 18360	3/2/01
Kathryn M. Vozar	P O Box 292	3/2/01

	Conyngham, PA 18219	
Elizabeth McGaugh	63 Moffett Street Rhains, PA 18705	3/2/01
Anne Imbalzano	131 Park Street Carbondale, PA 18407	3/2/01
Thomas A. McDauer	No Address	3/2/01
Marilyn Mesaros	633 Swallow Stret Edwardsville, PA 18704	3/2/01
Gail C. Evans	363 Osceola Ave Kingston, PA 18704	3/2/01
Colleen Castner	34 Franklin Street Edwardsville, PA 18704	3/2/01
Catherine Mowles	6 Allen Drive Lakesville, PA 18704	3/2/01
Mick Wegman	No Address	3/2/01
Dr. Mark A. Jones	No Address	3/2/01
Corrine Matty	No Address	3/2/01
Kathy Morris	21 Poland Street Swayersville, PA 18704	3/2/01
Edwin R. Solenberger	No Address	3/2/01
Ralph E. Bagnwolo	No Address	3/2/01
Sam Sasco	No Address	3/2/01
Lorraine Pidick	937 Clay Avenue Alyphant, PA 18447	3/2/01
Joanne Sheruda	No Address	3/2/01
Abbie Stevens Adams	RR1, Box 130A Sugar Run, PA 18846	3/2/01
Robin Weidow	No Address	3/2/01
Christine Kopcho	26 Redwood Drive Lafin, PA 18702-7222	3/2/01

Original: 2144

2001 MAR -6 AM 10:11

REVIEW COMMISSION

March 2, 2001

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor
Pennsylvania Department of Education
33 Market Street
Hanover, PA 17105

Dear Mr. Nyce:

I am adamantly opposed to removing class size limits from Chapter 14 for special education students as proposed. Please vote no on any proposal that would eliminate special education class size.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Theresa P. Myers
RR 5 Rt 5315
Moscow PA 18444



1188 Highway #315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-6929

(800) 432-8619 • (570) 819-2556
Fax: (570) 819-3268

Patsy J. Tallarico, PRESIDENT
Susan E. Houghton, VICE PRESIDENT
James P. Testerman, TREASURER
Carolyn C. Dumaresq, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Affiliated with the National Education Association

The PSEA mission

To advance quality public education for all students while fostering the dignity and worth of members through collective action.

IRRC #2144 Final Form

Title Special Education Services and Programs

(Form A -)

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE of CORRESPONDENCE
Theresa P. Myers	RR5 Box 5315 Moscow, PA 18444	3/2/01
Josh	75 W. Benjamin Ave Conyngham, PA 18219	3/2/01
Robert MacNeal	334 Sprint Street Dunmore, PA 18512	3/2/01
Nancy Heal	336 Fremont Street West Pittston, PA 18643	3/2/01
Diane Dein	319 Shady Lane Honesdale, PA 18431	3/2/01
Nancy McLaughlin	P O Box 2348 Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703	3/2/01
Deana M. Stein	7 Pointe Street Mount Pocono, PA 18344	3/2/01
Tina Plink	Box 146 Elmhurst, PA 18416	3/2/01
Beverly Bunney	1121 Meadowcrest Drive Shaverstown, PA 18708	3/2/01
Roberta A. Coulter	115 Stecker Mill Road Danville, PA 17821	3/2/01
Joan Hoffman	570 D Greenview Drive Brodheads ville, PA 18322	3/2/01
Dolores Brickler	RR1 Box 43 Dalton, PA 18414	3/2/01
Michelle Stallone	No Address	3/2/01
Clara Lee Sick	P O Box 17 Mildred, PA 18632	3/2/01
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Nadine Hinton	RD #7 Box 7075 Saylorsburg, PA 18353	3/2/01
Thomas Prefontaine	1290 Spyglass Hill Road Tobyhanna, PA 18466	3/2/01
Susan Bigno	212 Willow Lane	3/2/01

	Dalton, PA 18414	
Eugene Killianey	4102 Lawrence Avenue Monsic, PA 18507	3/2/01
Mary Beth McCarthy	500 Ward Street Dunmore, PA 18512	3/2/01
Victoria Sheridan	HC #1 Box 2B Hawley, PA 18428	3/2/01
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Rebecca L. McNulty	407 Centre Street Freeland, Pa 18224	3/2/01
John Petrilak	HCR#1 Box 347 Sciota, PA 18354	3/2/01
Stephen E. Honisch	34 Railroad Street Moosic, PA 18507	3/2/01
Debra Yanazzi	510 W. 30 th Street Hazleton, Pa 18201	3/2/01
Teri Feldmann	17 Gregory Court Stroudsburg, PA 18360	3/2/01
Christopher Olsff	P O Box 545 Reedis, PA 18352	3/2/01
Jeffrey S. Prosseda	329 Coleman Hollow Road Bloomsburg, AP 17815	3/2/01
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Lisa W. Kistter	196 Storey Brook Road Orangeville, PA 17859	3/2/01
Carol H. Goodman	P O Box 254 Wyalusing, PA 18853	3/2/01
Patricia S. Cook	112 Lake Street Dalton, PA 18414	3/2/01
Margaret Murphy	172 Terrace Street Carbondale, PA 18407	3/2/01
Edith Bader	781 Carteg Road Lake Ariel, PA 18436	3/2/01
Patricia Yannarell	21 East 11 th Street Hazleton, PA 18201	3/2/01
Cynthia Ceriea	205 Kelly Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360	3/2/01
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Ann McAlpin	60 N Hunter Highway Drums, PA 18222	3/2/01
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Joseph S. Markal	31 Ridge Street Forest City, PA	3/2/01
George F. Byan	Box 403 Reading, PA 18352	3/2/01
Maureen Finnegan	62 E. St Mary's Road Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702-4103	3/2/01
Richard Tomasko	889 Grant Street Hazleton, Pa 18201	3/2/01
Hank Donati	511 Stark Street Moosic, PA 18507	3/2/01
Ruth Major	Box 638 Pocono Pines, PA 18350	3/2/01
Louise Roberts	111 Franklin Street Dallas, PA 18612	3/2/01
Jeremy Yale	174 S. Maple Street Kingston, PA 18704	3/2/01
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Sharon L. Lloyd	317 Colbert Street Stroudsburg, PA 18360	3/2/01
Michael L. Stritanski	82M Atherton Avenue Kingston, PA 18704	3/2/01
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Karen A. Heckman	RR3 Box 2180 Effort, PA 18330	3/2/01
Peggy Bolick	226 Main Street Blakely, PA 18447	3/2/01
Darla Stem	No Address	3/2/01
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Beverly Hanis	RR3 Box 3428 Factoryville, PA 18419	3/2/01
Barbara Borino	RR1 Box 186F Harding, PA 18643	3/2/01
Loretta P. Slowikowski	436 College Avenue Factoryville, PA 18419	3/2/01
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Louis Bartalinn	9 Woodside Drive Dallas, PA 18612	3/2/01
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Ann Marie Macri	49 Saratoga Court Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702	3/2/01
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Dolores Gilloew	604 Beech Street Old Forge, PA 18518	3/2/01
Ron Matsko Finsel	456 S. Poplar Street Hazleton, PA 18201	3/2/01
Joseph Sebastian	No Address	3/2/01
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Catherine R. Petruncio	No Address	3/2/01
Laura J. Long	No Address	3/2/01
Lisa J. Wilson	No Address	3/2/01
Anthony Cenozzlioni	No Address	3/2/01
Mary J. Shulde	No Address	3/2/01

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Conrad Duhoski	208 Peacock Drive Larksville, PA 18704	3/2/01
Serhand Roberts	No Address	3/2/01
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Dr. Sheila Dove Jones	No Address	3/2/01
Carol D. Johnson	661 Charles Avenue Kingston, PA 18704	3/2/01
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Edward N. Sartin	No Address	3/2/01
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Christopher Blizzard	No Address	3/2/01
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Connie Alichnie	No Address	3/2/01
Rae Ann Rutz Mahor	No Address	3/2/01
Carla A. Graham	No Address	3/2/01
Kevnee A. Magle	No Address	3/2/01
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Carla A. Graham	No Address	3/2/01
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Jane Evelock	No Address	3/2/01
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March 2, 2001

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BY FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Robert E. Nyce
 Executive Director
 Independent Regulatory Review Commission
 333 Market Street, 4th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: 22 Pa. Code Chapter 14

Dear Mr. Nyce:

On March 8, 2001, the IRRC will consider whether to approve new PA regulations to govern special education programs for PA children ages 3 to 21. We urge you not to approve these regulations. We believe that there are many serious problems with proposed Chapter 14, and we have described these problems repeatedly and at length during the earlier stages of this regulatory process. (See, e.g., Attachment A). Also enclosed is a letter that I recently submitted to the federal Office of Special Education Programs setting out certain legal problems with the portion of Chapter 14 that governs extended school year programs. (Attachment B).

However, for the purpose of next Thursday's meeting, my major message is that the State Board's and the PA Department of Education's decision to jettison class size and caseload maximums is a dramatic and unfortunate retreat from this state's historic support for quality education for students with disabilities. Class size and caseload maximums have been part of the PA's special education system since its inception, and the current maximums have been in place for more than a decade.

Class size maximums apply to "pull out" special education programs, that is, classes for students who have, for some part of the school day, been "pulled out" of the regular education program. Federal law and good practice require that such pull outs occur only when the students cannot achieve satisfactorily in an integrated setting, even with supports. Thus, the children in these pull-out classes are necessarily the educationally neediest.

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 The Philadelphia Building
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PA School Reform Network
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As many families, advocates and teachers have, I am sure, told you, the major justification for pull-out special education programming is that it gives specially trained staff the opportunity to provide intensive support to children with significant learning needs. This can happen only if the class size is small enough to let this interaction occur. The objective is always to improve the student's performance so that, if possible, he or she can return to a regular educational setting. This can happen only if the intervention is successful.

Throughout this process, the Department has argued that rigid class size maximums do not give districts the flexibility they need to handle occasional additional students arriving in the course of the school year. We believe that the existing system, which permits the Department to approve waivers, already provides this flexibility. However, we join with many families and advocacy groups in endorsing the class size scheme proposed by the PFT and PSEA, which would eliminate a district's need even to request a waiver to add a few students for the remainder of the school year. To my knowledge, neither the Department nor the State Board has explained why they have rejected the PFT/PSEA proposal.

Finally, I'd like to respond to the Department's suggestion that there is no need for class size maximums because parents have adequate protection through the IEP, complaint and special education hearing processes. This is simply not true. IEP teams do not set class sizes. The State Complaint Management System (the Division of Compliance) can only correct clear legal violations. Currently, parents can file a complaint that a class is over-enrolled, and DOC will find for the family and order correction. Once the legal requirement in the form of the class size regulations disappears, DOC will no longer have any jurisdiction. And the burden on a family in a special education hearing will be to establish that their child cannot receive an appropriate program in the proposed class – a daunting, and probably impossible task. (It is ironic that, under these proposed regulations, the family will not longer be able to be represented by an advocate at such a hearing; so unless they can find and pay for a lawyer, they will be on their own in proving their case to a hearing officer.)

We urge you to disapprove the proposed Chapter 14. It is an unfortunate retreat that will hurt these children and families. It seems clear that the major motivation for this change is to save money – that is, if districts can increase class sizes, they can hire fewer special education teachers, and thus spend less on these children. On this point, I close with a quotation from a case that was decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit:

A chief selling point of the [federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act] was that although it is penny dear, it is pound wise – the expensive individualized assistance ... eventually redounds to the benefit of the public fisc as these children grow to become productive adults.

Polk v. Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit #16, 853 F.2d 171, 182 (3d Cir. 1988).

Thank you for this opportunity to have input into this important matter.

Very truly yours,


Janet F. Stotland
Co-Director

Enclosures

Original: #2144

Lynne Denicola
209 Roycroft Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1244

(412) 571-2859

DATE:

March 2, 2001

TO:

Mr. Chris Markham

COMPANY:

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

FROM:

Lynne Denicola, PLSN Newsletter Editor

NUMBER OF PAGES: (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET)

6

MEMO:

Dear Mr. Markham,

Thank you for so generously spending your time this morning discussing the Parent Learning Support Network's (PLSN) opposition to the proposed revisions to Chapter 14 with PLSN Secretary Susan Dixon. To help you in learning more about the reasons we opposed the changes, I have included with this fax a copy of the information we provided to Rep. Tom Stevenson at our recent meeting with him. He also opposes the proposed changes. I hope this information will help you in making your decision.

Rep. Stevenson is trying to arrange with IRRC's Bob Nyce to have one of our members speak at the IRRC meeting on March 8. Is there anything you can do to have her name placed on the agenda? Her name is Stephanie Tecza (pronounced Tezzuh). She is the parent of a special needs child, an ARC advocate, and opposed to the proposed changes to Chapter 14. You may reach her at (412) 995-5000, extension 486 (work) or (412) 683-2830 (home).

Thank you for your time, both now and earlier this morning with Sue.

Sincerely,

Lynne Denicola

Lynne Denicola, PLSN Newsletter Editor

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