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THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND TEACHER EDUCATORS JUL 30 2007

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State Unit of
The Association of Teacher Educators & The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
Web Site: www.pac-te.org

616 Sunset Road
Saint Marys, PA 15857
July 27, 2007

Jim Buckheit, Executive Director
State Board of Education:
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

On behalf of the PAC-TE member institutions that prepare teachers for Pennsylvania, I am requesting consideration of an additional extension on the deadline date for a portion of Chapter 49-2. PAC-TE has previously indicated support for what we have referred to as the AADL (adaptations and accommodations for diverse learners) portion of the proposed regulation. We are anxious to comply with AADL!

In *Responses to Public Comments*, the explanation for not extending the deadline refers to the concern about "another class of 12,000 plus teachers (are) certified without having the skills necessary to provide effective instruction to diverse learners." We concur. This deadline should remain at 2011.

We do request that consideration be given to an extension of the deadline for the split of elementary certification into early childhood (P-4) and elementary/middle (4-8). In May the State Board of Education extended this implementation deadline to 2013. Delays in the review process have consumed more that 25% of that extension. This provision of Chapter 49-2 is the area the precipitated the most public comment. This area involves the most adaptation of teacher preparation.

PAC-TE would also like to reinforce the concept that teacher preparation does NOT begin with acceptance into teacher preparation

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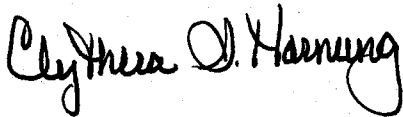
after forty-eight (48) credits. It begins during those early semesters when prospective educators take courses that assist in their decision to pursue that career path and are required for completion of the program.

Institutions of higher education view their published program of study as a "contract" between the institution and their students. Most believe that they have at very least a "moral" responsibility to deliver course content as it is described to students at the time of their enrollment . . . at the beginning of their college experience – not after several semesters and not when they officially are admitted to teacher education. In keeping with this accepted practice, Pennsylvania teacher preparation programs believe they should have fully developed and published programs of studies for teacher education at the beginning of the typical four-year teacher preparation program.

If the deadline remains at January 2013, programs need to be developed, revised, approved and published by January 2009 so that students who enroll for fall 2009 will know what will be required of them in order to be prepared as a Pennsylvania certified educator. That IS not possible! Numerous tasks (guidelines to be written, Certification Staffing Policy Guidelines to be revised, etc.) need to be accomplished by PA Department of Education before institutions can even begin the process. We want to do this right!

PAC-TE fervently requests consideration of an additional extension to 2014 of the implementation deadline for the Split of Elementary Certification ONLY portion of Chapter 49-2!

Sincerely,



Clythera S. Hornung Ed.D.
President

cc: IRRC