

Cooper, Kathy

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Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2007 8:58 AM
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Subject: No. 2583 State Board Of Education #6-303: Certification Of Professional Personnel

I would like to bring two concerns to the Commission's attention regarding the proposed changes to Chapter 49. Both deal with terminology issues in 49.13

1) Cognitive Skill Development

This term is not defined and open to misinterpretation. It is not a commonly used term in special education, and there is little support for a teacher preparation institution that attempts to develop an instructional program to meet this requirement.

A preferred approach is to articulate the need for instruction in needed skills (e.g., academic, social, vocational, communication) that individuals with disabilities will need to be full participants in society. There is ample research to support instruction in these areas.

2) Diverse learner

A definition is provided in the revised Chapter 49, and it is clearly the intent of the State Board that this term only refer to individuals with disabilities or who are English language learners. However, the common use of this term (as observed in federal court decisions concerning the creation of a "diverse" student body) includes "racial status" and sometimes "income level".

Please see <http://clic.cua.edu/FEDLAW/Cr1964s.cfm>

This has the potential to create confusion - a preferred approach is to not use the term "diverse learner" and instead to specifically refer to the targeted student population.

Thank you for your attention to these matters

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