

2583

PLEASE REPLY TO:

12TH DISTRICT
STEWART J. GREENLEAF

711 NORTH YORK ROAD
WILLOW GROVE, PA 19090-2124
(215) 657-7700
(215) 657-1885 FAX

SENATE BOX 203012
ROOM 19 EW
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Senate of Pennsylvania

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TASK FORCE ON GERIATRIC AND SERIOUSLY
ILL INMATES

December 12, 2006

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

RECEIVED
2006 DEC 13 PM 1:34
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I am writing today in reference to the **proposed** regulation issued by the State Board of Education pertaining to certification of professional personnel.

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter I recently received from Dr. Stanley J. Durtan, Superintendent of Wissahickon School District, regarding the above proposed regulation. As you can see from Dr. Durtan's letter, he has concerns and objections (i.e., less flexibility to staff elementary schools) with the regulation as currently drafted and the impact it will have on a school district's ability to appropriately staff their schools.

Recognizing that the public comment period for this regulation doesn't expire until December 26, I would greatly appreciate if the State Board would give full consideration to the objections raised by Dr. Durtan to this proposed regulation as it considers moving forward with any final-form regulation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Stewart J. Greenleaf
Stewart J. Greenleaf

SJG:ep

cc: Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Senator James Rhoades, Chair of Senate Education Committee

Enclosure



2583

Eric please respond 12/7
Wissahickon School District

601 Knight Road, Ambler, Pennsylvania 19002-3496

(215) 619-8000

FAX (215) 619-8002

December 5, 2006

Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf
711 North York Road, Suite 1

RECEIVED
DEC 06 2006
WILLOW GROVE

Dear Senator Greenleaf:

I am writing to oppose the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education's teacher certification regulations (Chapter 49-2) that are now before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The regulations, if finally adopted, would make it more difficult for school districts to appropriately staff their schools, particularly in the face of a nation-wide shortage of teachers. Further, they will narrow the preparation of elementary certificate holders at a time when teachers are expected to work with a broader range of performance in their classes and to meet the needs of each student. They will lead to departmentalizing disciplines at lower grade levels at a time when many curriculum experts are suggesting greater and more natural integration of content. They will result in substantially less flexibility to staff elementary schools, and they may lead to the exacerbation of the teacher shortage issue particularly with regard to upper elementary certified and special education certified teachers.

I find this proposal to be particularly ironic and ill-advised given the funding constraints that have been imposed on school districts with the passage of Act 1. The recruitment and retention of top-quality teachers will be even more difficult than ever before because of these fiscal constraints.

For these reasons, I urge you to disapprove the Chapter 49-2 regulations.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stanley J. Durtan, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintends of Schools