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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

30 January 2007

State Board of Education  
Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333  
Phone (717)-787-3787  
Email:

Dear Mr. Bukheit:

I am writing to you about my concerns on the Chapter 49 requirements for certification of professional personnel in public schools. I support the idea of professional certification being more specific to grade level, in all educational fields. I feel that this allows educators to be more knowledgeable about the academic content and needs of the students at their explicit grade level. Another area of the Chapter 49 section 13(b) that I support is the area of providing programs and opportunities for educators to gain knowledge and skills to effectively provide instruction to diverse learners in inclusive classroom setting. As an educator it is important to remain up to date on current issues, strategies and theories in the classroom where I teach. The numbers of special education students enrolled in a regular education classroom is rising and will continue to rise in the years to come, with this information; I feel it is important for all educators to be educated on instructions and accommodations for students with disabilities.

Overall I feel the beliefs of the Chapter 49 are positive, though I am not sure how it is going to be accomplished. A document like this look great on paper, but to implement it will be difficult. We are in the year 2007 and in 3 years (2010) we want educational programs to contain 270 hours of instruction on accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities. In content 270 hours of instruction would have to include instruction in literacy skills development and cognitive skill development for students with disabilities. Another area of the concern is by January 2012; teaching certificates will need to follow the new grade level limitations. The year 2012 is only 5 years away. I feel that this is a huge change and the deadline for this to occur needs to be re-evaluated. What is the plan, deadline for educators that already possess a teaching certificate? When will this affect the new students who are just entering the education field? These are some questions that are of a concern of mine.

Overall I feel that Chapter 29 possesses some wonderful ideas on paper that could have a huge positive impact on our students. My concern is how will we will meet these expectations that are being brought upon us in a short period of time. I feel that the deadlines for these guidelines need to be looked upon.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this with me in further detail please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Amy Hatfield