Brandywine Heights Area School District

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John P. Curtin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

November 28, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

As Superintendent of the Brandywine Heights Area School District, I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the proposed amendments to the State Board of Education's teacher certification regulations (Chapter 49-2). These proposed amendments are currently before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Brandywine Heights Area School District is a small, rural school district in Berks County. These regulations, if adopted, would make it more difficult to staff our schools. 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. We have spent thousands of dollars and countless hours on staff development helping our teachers understand and effectively use differentiated instruction. These regulations will lead to departmentalizing disciplines at lower grades at a time when the curriculum experts are suggesting greater and more natural integration of content and Chapter 4 regulations state that "Every teacher is a Reading teacher". Additionally, if these regulations become law, small school districts like Brandywine Heights will have less flexibility to staff the three small elementary schools and it will lead to shortages in upper elementary certified and special education certified teachers.

With new limitations placed on school districts by the passage of Act 1 of 2006, funding for these new teachers will become a major issue and further drive taxpayers to revolt.

For these reasons, I urge you to disapprove the Chapter 49.2 regulations.

Sincerely,

John P. Curtin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JPC/cc