

2583

Kathy Cooper

From: Burton S. Anne Marie [aburton@Immaculata.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 11:29 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: re:49-2

To Whom It May Concern:,

I would like to voice some of my concerns regarding Chapter 49-2. As a faculty member working with young people who wish to be teachers, I believe that some of the changes will have a negative impact on their teaching careers. First, the elimination of the Elementary certification will limit their ability to teach in other states. The reciprocity that existed with other states regarding certifications will not have any credibility. Secondly, this change regarding elementary certification seems to be not in line with the way in which our public schools are organized. An informal poll of students in our courses indicates that their preference would be to obtain the Early Childhood certification and this could cause a shortage of teachers for the middle level area.

Although I see a need for all our teachers to be aware of ways in which to help children with special needs, the credit requirements seem to be excessive. Similarly, the hours / credits required for ELL will be a burden for students who are expected to complete their certification program within a four year period. The practice that had been followed indicated that our students needed to have studies in specific area – there was never a credit / hour requirement attached.

I certainly am in favor of providing highly qualified teachers for our children, and I want my institution to continue to uphold high standards for our pre-service teachers. However, the changes that are written in 49-2 seem to me to be narrow in focus and limiting. I work with young people who are bright and committed to the teaching profession. It is my fear that the restrictions placed on them will keep them from pursuing the goal to be a teacher.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of education.

Sister Anne Marie Burton, IHM, Ed.D
Professor, Education Department
Director, Student Teaching
PO Box 684
Immaculata PA 19345-0684
610-647-4400 X3280
aburton@immaculata.edu

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