

Oxford Area School District

125 Bell Tower Lane • Oxford, Pennsylvania 19363 • (610) 932-6600

November 30, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

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 us to appropriately staff our schools. We need more flexibility not less! Currently I have seven high school special education teachers who are not allowed to teach any academic subjects. These are extremely competent teachers who have proven themselves over the years. These new regulations will create the same problems throughout the other grades. The changes will not lead to improved education in our schools.

It also is unfair to our beginning teachers. Until you have your own classroom you do not know on which age group you will have the greatest impact. With these new regulations many teachers may find that they are not certified to teach the age group in which they are most effective.

Finally, there are so many areas in the field of education that can use your attention. This is not one of them. Please look at better ways to fund our education system.

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

Sincerely,



Mary Jane Gales, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MJG/bjb