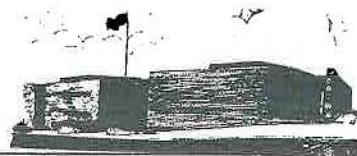




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Washington Elementary School



Administration Center
31 South Penn Street
P.O. Box 328
Allentown, PA 18105
484-765-4000

✓ 837 North Ninth Street
Allentown, PA 18102
484-765-4940
FAX: 484-765-4955
Donna L. Scholtis
Principal

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

December 5, 2006

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

Dear Sir,

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 for the following reasons.

Often when a teacher is hired for a particular grade level, he or she finds that they would perform better in another grade level or the administrator determines that the teacher would perform better on another grade level. For example, a teacher hired for fifth grade may perform better if reassigned to a third or second grade. The possibility for reassignment to another grade level needs to exist so that the needs of students can be met.

Each school year, the enrollment in Washington Elementary School changes & at times, the change can be dramatic. Therefore, the number of classrooms on each grade level changes every year. Flexibility is needed to be able to reassign teachers to other grade levels so that classrooms can be staffed & teachers do not need to be transferred to another building.

It takes years, sometimes as many as ten years, to staff a school with a team of teachers that work well together. Flexibility is needed to be able to reassign teachers to other grade levels so that a team can be kept together instead of having to transfer teachers to another building because of restrictions on their certification for certain grade levels. A team of teachers who share, support & understand each other is vital to providing a program that meets the needs of students, their parents & the community.

For these reasons, I urge you to disapprove the Chapter 49-2 regulations. Please feel free to contact me at Washington Elementary School if you would like to discuss this with me.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Scholtis, Principal

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