

2583

Pennsylvania State Board of Education
Chapter 49 Committee, Attn. Dr. James Fogarty
333 Market Street, First Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333

RECEIVED

DEC 11 2006

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Dear Dr. Fogarty and Committee Members:

As a person responsible for training music teachers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I have strong concerns about the proposed changes to PA Code Title 22, Chapter 49.13(b)(4)(i), and the impact it will have on the content preparation of music teacher certification in our state. The proposal states as follows:

(i) The evaluation by the Department will provide assurance that, on or before January 1, 2010, teacher education programs will require at least 9 credits or 270 hours, or an equivalent combination thereof, regarding accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities in an inclusive setting. Within the content of these 9 credits or 270 hours, instruction in literacy skills development and cognitive skill development for students with disabilities must be included, as determined by the institution. At least 3 credits or 90 additional hours, or an equivalent combination thereof, must address the instructional needs of English language learners. For purposes of this requirement, 1 credit equals 30 hours of coursework. Applicable hours are limited to a combination of seat hours of classroom instruction, field observation experiences, major research assignments, and development and implementation of lesson plans with accommodations and adaptations for diverse learners in an inclusive setting.

These requirements in the initial certification program will result in the major subject matter of the degree being reduced resulting in less competent teachers for all students who will be unprepared to teach students to accomplish the state standards and the requirements of NCLB. Our program at IUP recently was forced to reduce its course offerings in music to the bare minimum due to a SSHE mandate for all degree programs to conform to a 120 credit hour limit. Such an additional change in curriculum would deplete an already "bare bones" program in our core music education content.

I recommend no more than 90 clock hours (equivalent of 3 credits) for "instruction in literacy skills development and cognitive skill development for students with disabilities" be addressed in the initial certification program, and the remaining hours plus the 90 hours for English language learners be requirements for Instructional II certificates.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Ferguson
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

662 CHESTNUT STREET
INDIANA PA 15701-1868

INDEPENDENT REGULATION
REVIEW COMMISSION

2006 DEC 13 PM 1:41

RECEIVED