



Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

AN AFFILIATE OF

MUSIC EDUCATORS NATIONAL CONFERENCE



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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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December 12, 2006

Pennsylvania State Board of Education
Chapter 49 Committee, Attn. Dr. James Fogarty
333 Market Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg PA 17126-0333

Dear Dr. Fogarty and Committee Members:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to PA Code Title 22, Chapter 49.13(b)(4)(i) 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.

My concern is with the negative impact placing these requirements in the initial certification program will have. It will result in the major subject matter of the degree being reduced, resulting in less competent teachers for all students. Future teachers will be less prepared to teach students to accomplish the state standards and the requirements of *No Child Left Behind*.

I concur with the recommendations made by Dr. Patrick M. Jones, chair, PMEA Society for Music Teacher Education, and his university colleagues that more than 90 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.

The overall impact will be a reduction of content in the music studies component of the music education degree, resulting in less competent teachers who do not meet the academic standards required by *PA Code, Title 22, Chapter 354* and *Public Law 107-110 the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001."* Our Pennsylvania colleges and universities might also risk losing national accreditation by reducing the music studies within degrees to not comply with National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) guidelines.


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I urge the Committee to reconsider the ramifications of this proposed change and to consider the recommendations made by Dr. Jones.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely yours,


Margaret S. Bauer, CAE
Executive Director