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# Southeast Regional Key

PA Early Learning Key To Quality  
A Unit of Caring People Alliance

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State Board of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

December 13, 2006

Dear Mr. Buckheit and Committee members,


Please accept this letter as the Southeast Regional Key's expression of support for the Chapter 49-2 proposal currently pending review by the IRRC. We feel this proposal would strengthen indefinitely the skill set of Pennsylvania teachers at all grade levels. We have outlined in this letter specific rationale for our support:

1. Splitting the Certifications according to the specifications outlines in the Chapter 49-2 proposal will assure opportunities for teachers to gain deeper knowledge of child development, pedagogy, and content appropriate for the age group they are teaching.
2. The focus in Chapter 49-2 on expanded requirements for content area knowledge will facilitate the development of a strong skill set for teachers within the context of the certification they choose to attain.
3. In addition, we feel the time frame for implementation (2012) allows Higher-Ed Institutions, Pennsylvania schools, and incoming teachers enough time to make the transition to these new requirements. Provisions proposed in Chapter 49-2 for individual exceptions to the certification rules enable districts and teachers to be flexible about meeting their staffing needs.

The Southeast Regional Key is the designated program responsible for administering state and federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds in the Southeastern Region on Pennsylvania. As a part of our work to build a strong education system, we frequently work with representatives from Higher-Education Institutions and PDE.

Chapter 49-2 enables us to work more effectively towards a high-quality education system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We look forward to actively supporting PDE and the Higher-Ed institutions in our region in making this transition once Chapter 49-2 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Debra L. Lawrence, M.A.  
Director

  
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Professional Development Manager



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