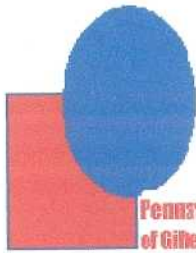


2583



**Pennsylvanians for the Education  
of Gifted Students, Inc.**

**James R. Clark, President  
1055 Hearthstone Road  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603-9452**

RECEIVED  
2006 DEC 28 AM 9:35  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

December 22, 2006

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-0333  
Fax: (717) 783-2664

**Re: Pennsylvanians for the Education of Gifted Students, Inc. position regarding § 49.62b.  
Program Endorsement Certificate**

Dear IRRC Commission:

PEGS supports full State certification as a special education teacher of gifted students (including certification obtained through alternative routes to certification), or passing a State special education teacher licensing examination, and holding a license to teach as a special education teacher.

As an appropriate step towards ensuring that highly qualified education professionals teach gifted students, Pennsylvanians for the Education of Gifted Students, Inc. (PEGS) supports the inclusion of gifted education in §49.62b: Program Endorsement Certificate. PEGS supports formal State certification as a special education teacher of gifted students (including certification obtained through alternate routes to certification), or passing a State special education teacher licensing examination, and holding a license to teach as a special education teacher of gifted students, except that when that term is used with respect to any teacher teaching in a public charter school, in which case the term means that the teacher meets the requirements set forth in the State's public charter school law.

In short, PEGS supports a full certification for gifted teachers, but fully supports this endorsement as a first step toward the goal of ensuring highly qualified professionals teach gifted students. The PEGS preference would be that such endorsement be mandatory with the granting of a district waiver (subject to provisions in 24 P. S. § 17-1714-B) in those instances where specially endorsed candidates are unavailable. To make clear that existing in-servicing requirements of Chapter 16 must be maintained, the inclusion of the phrase "**as a prerequisite**" to service would make clear that no existing Chapter 16 protections shall be lessened. PEGS also supports the maximum credit requirement as a baseline for the recommended certification or endorsement.

Cordially submitted,

James R. Clark, President  
Pennsylvanians for the Education of Gifted Students, Inc.  
1055 Hearthstone Rd  
Lancaster, PA 17603-9452

(1) attachment  
cc: Mr. James Buckheit, Executive Director Pennsylvania State Board of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Pennsylvanians for the Education of Gifted Students, Inc. proposed language for:

§ 49.62b. Program Endorsement Certificate.

Following approval by the Department, baccalaureate or graduate degree granting institutions, alone or in cooperation with other institutions, community colleges or school entities, may offer short programs (12 credits maximum) that lead to **the Program Endorsement Certificate. The Program Endorsement Certificate documents knowledge** in new and emerging areas where formal certification does not exist [ but would] . The Program Endorsement Certificate is intended to improve [ the ] a teacher's skills in dealing with complex classroom settings[ . Areas include, but are not limited to] , **including teaching gifted students or diverse learners in areas such as assistive technology curriculum modification, autism spectrum disorders, assessment, gifted education**, classroom management, classroom technology and disruptive youth. These endorsements would be added to existing Level I or Level II Certificates but are not required **as a prerequisite** to perform service in these areas.