

Buckheit, James

From: Buckheit, James
Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2006 9:21 AM
To: 'Persida Himmele'
Subject: RE: Chapter 49 comments

State Board of Education

333 Market Street, First Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333

December 26, 2006

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2006 DEC 27 PM 2:13
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Drs. Himmele:

Thank you for your letter received by the State Board of Education on December 19, 2006 regarding the proposed Chapter 49 Certification of Professional Personnel regulations.

Your letter is considered official public comment. As such copies are shared with each member of the State Board of Education, the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees and Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). Your letter is also considered a public document that may be publicly released upon request.

The Regulatory Review Act provides that notice regarding final regulations be provided to those who make official comment if requested. If you would like to receive a copy of the final-form regulation when it is submitted for final approval by the legislative committees and IRRC, please submit a written request to me at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

Jim Buckheit

Executive Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Persida Himmele [mailto:Persida.Himmele@millersville.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2006 3:57 PM
To: jrbuckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Chapter 49 comments

Dear Mr. Buckheit and Sate Board of Education Members,

We thank you and applaud your efforts in preparing teachers to be the best that they can be in the teaching of ALL children. **We strongly support** the requirement that all teacher certification candidates complete at least 3 units of coursework in teaching English language learners. We feel that the most effective way to bridge the achievement gap between English language learners and their native English speaking peers is to train classroom teachers on the best practices for meeting the needs of English language learners in their classrooms.

As you may already know **the national drop-out rates for Anglo students in US schools**

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is about 9%, for African Americans the rate is 12%, for Latinos the rate jumps to 30% with the majority of those dropping out (approximately 80%) being English language learners. If we expect to make a dent in the rate of student failure and increase academic achievement on the part of English language learners, then we must begin with the adequate preparation of teachers to meet the needs of all students, including English language learners. We especially think that it is important for the State Board to specify minimum hours of coursework, as you have done, as opposed to generally stating that there should be *an understanding* of teaching methodology geared toward teaching English language learners. In our experiences, when *a general understanding* has been emphasized, the topic of teaching English language learners becomes lost and forgotten. Thank you for being specific.

We applaud your initiative in taking a step to further the success of our English language learners in the state of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

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& Dr. William J. Himmele
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