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1730 Walnut Hill Blvd.
Media, PA 19063

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION
PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Dear Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director

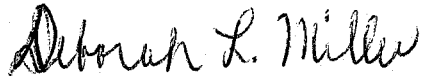
With respect to the caseload chart proposed in Chapter 14 I would like to recommend that Level II be changed to propose a maximum of 20 students instead of 25. As a homeroom mother working as a volunteer in the elementary classrooms, who previously was a second grade teacher, I wanted take the time to say that the workload for special education teachers has dramatically increased in just the last 8 years since I last ran a classroom. Eight years ago we had curriculum based assessment but did not have the progress monitoring via Dibels and the charting that teachers are using today. Dibels and progress monitoring are both good instructional practices but are in addition to the rest of what has been added to the workload of the special education teacher. Special education teachers in the district I volunteer for now co-teach in math and language arts which means coordinating with a team which takes time. Then there is the access issue. The special education teachers contact parents via phone, emails, parent teacher conferences, IEP meetings, and progress reporting. With more students with disabilities in regular education classes the logistics to collect information from all of the teachers to stay on top of the child's progress has grown substantially. I urge you to consider reducing the caseload for Level II.

Thank you for your recognition that starting at age 14 can make a difference in outcomes for students with disabilities. I work part time as a job coach and on a regular basis see the value in proper planning for students and giving them the opportunity to succeed in the community before graduation. I invite you to see students working at the local grocery store, stocking at WaWa, and employed in school district cafeterias that will reinforce your proposal for transition at age 14.

We have seen an emphasis on Least Restrictive Environment I would like Chapter 14 reflect the federal law and not go beyond federal laws intent. Maintain the full continuum in the special education plan so that it affirms that we still have the placement options available to IEP teams based on student needs and level of support that is necessary.

I thank you and the State Board for this opportunity to share my thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah L. Miller".

Deborah L. Miller
Parent and Part-time Job Coach