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OF EDUCATION

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

July 9, 2007
1315 Fairview Lane
Lebanon PA 17042

Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Sir;

My name is Linda Greeninger and I have been a Special Education Paraprofessional for over 22 years. I am also a member of PSEA serving as treasurer of my local and alternate on the Legislative Committee for PSEA. I am very concerned about what changes are to be made to Chapter 14.

I personally have worked in many types of Special Education classrooms for Multi-Disabilities to Alternative Education. During my many years of employment I have attended many training during my summers off given by both the Lancaster-Lebanon IU-13 and PaTTAN. I have completed the PaTTAN courses and have received my certificate of Pennsylvania Highly Quilified status. I also have received my Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Certificate through PSEA.

I believe that a highly qualified paraprofessional is molded by learning on the job. Testing will not cover the many things that you need to know in a day's time on the job. You need to learn what is expected of you and become one with your Teacher so that you work together as a team. You learn this by doing and just being attuned to your students and their needs. Each classroom has many different needs and you have to love the student's to be able to do these jobs. Our jobs during one particular day could include:

- Getting Students off the bus
- Attendance and lunch count
- Serving and cleaning up after breakfast
- Calling all parents of student's absent from school
- Helping in classroom w/student lessons
- Following up with individual students with their work
- Correcting and grading papers
- Serving and cleaning up after lunch
- Helping teacher again with lessons
- Helping Individual student with their work
- Correcting and grading papers

- Keeping behavioral sheets on all student and scoring them on a daily basis
- Getting student settled and ready for dismissal
- Getting students on to buses
- Many classrooms also do toileting and feedings more than two or three times a day
- After the student leave we them conference with the teacher about the day and discuss what the next day is to be like.
- We also do photocopying, filing and need to keep the room in order so that it is safe for the students and other staff.
- We also may need to meet with Supervisory staff if there has been an incident such as in Alternative Education on a daily basis.

At this point through the negotiations of our first contract and talking to others who have negotiated their contracts I cannot for see the districts or IU stepping up to the plate and be willing to raise our wages because we are considered highly qualified.. Most if not all of us wind upcoming in early and staying past our contracted time, taking work home to complete and not taking any duty free lunches. The majority of paraprofessionals are below the poverty level especially if they are single parents and have to provide for their families and because of this cannot even afford health insurance etc. If we have to pay for further training out of our own pockets many excellent paraprofessionals will leave and in our profession there is a drastic turnover to begin with.

If a paraprofessional is willing do a certain amount of trainings over a specific amount of time to keep themselves abreast of new ideas and standards and are receiving excellent or exceeds excellent on a yearly review, they have shown that they are highly qualified to receive those markings. A paraprofessional learns more in a classroom by doing and being shown by their teacher what is expected than by testing. Most people can learn what they need to know on a test but can they put it into practice in a classroom? Students need caring and supportive role models to look up to because most of the students I work with do not have this in their home life and look to us to be there for them.

I am very interested in learning what the outcome of this is since this is a profession very near and dear to my heart. If at any time you would like to contact me, my phone number is 717-274-3233 I am very willing to come to Harrisburg to discuss this with you if necessary.

Sincerely;



Linda Greeninger.