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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Jim Buckheit, Executive Director

Paraprofessional: I understand the intention of the State Board but we must be aware of the practical side of this issue. Currently it is hard enough finding qualified candidates at the levels established by the Intermediate Unit and school district levels. The requirement of 2 years of post-secondary education will only make the employment situation more critical.

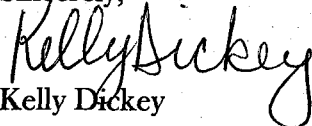
Hearing Interpreters: Allow for hearing interpreters to receive their training during the school day and at no cost Hearing Interpreters are not high salaried positions and to ask them to meet the requirements on their own time can impact their decision to work in the field. There are opportunities before and after the hours students are in class and on in-service days when they can receive the training.

Level 2: Caseloads for Level 2 should be at a maximum of 20 because of all of the requirements that are being placed on the special education teacher's time. If you have a student who has significant needs it can impact your schedule as that child uses up more of your time and resources. This involves working with behavioral specialist, assistive technology, teaming up with the speech therapist, attending team meetings with the academic teachers, multiple weekly contacts with the parent via email, log books and phone calls.

Speech caseload: Speech caseloads should be 50 with the current language. If the number were to be higher than 50 then there should be language to impact the number of student contacts per week.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,


Kelly Dickey

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