

RECEIVED

JUL 1 8 2007

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

2050 Butternut Drive
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

2618

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

RECEIVED

2007 JUL 20 PM 3:00

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

Dear Jim Buckheit, Executive Director

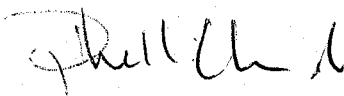
I have concerns related to the personnel section on paraprofessionals. I would recommend that we continue with current practices relating to the hiring of these individuals. Intermediate Units make themselves available to take on challenging students and programs to help school districts meet the needs of their student population. The jobs as paraprofessionals is not easy because it can range from changing adult diapers and tube feeding to using all of your skills to deescalate a situation where you know the secondary student has the capacity to seriously injure you. Current staff is working well and we are able to fill vacancies. The new requirements will change the lay of the land and will challenge the system to meet the new requirements.

I would like reconsideration on the caseload chart in two areas. Speech should be 50 and Level II of the chart should be 20 instead of 25. The current numbers challenge educators to meet the requirements that include communicating with families, progress monitoring, and teaching students.

It has come to my attention that there is a segment of the public that is voicing their request for students with autism to have the same privileges as students with mental retardation including such things as 2 year evaluations and the elimination of suspensions. The State Board should understand that Free and Appropriate Education for students with Autism is a reality in my Intermediate Unit as well as in the districts we serve. The additional requests are not necessary for students to receive an appropriate education.

I thank you for your consideration and time in this matter.

Sincerely,



Randi Chud