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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director
State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing with regard to the proposed revisions to Chapter 14 in the hopes that you can convey to the State Board my feelings and opinions.

First and foremost, thank you for retaining the 60 school days for evaluation purposes. In my work as a school psychologist this timeline is essential to provide adequate flexibility for the administration of appropriate tests to all students referred, based on both the stated request for evaluation and additional information which may be emerge during the assessment process. Furthermore, it allows for a complete examination of the findings, a thorough analysis of the results, and the development of a final report that is both an accurate and a professional reflection of each individual student. Please ensure that this deadline is maintained.

Additionally, the language in the section on Least Restrictive Environment concerns me. In section 14.145 (a) (1) the statement that each school entity shall ensure that the student with a disability is educated with students who are not disabled to the "maximum extent" appears to go beyond what is required in federal law. I would like to see that changed to "maximum extent appropriate" to reflect current national legislation. As this terminology presently stands, without the word appropriate, Chapter 14 appears to mandate full inclusion across the board with no exceptions. I strongly support educating every child in the least restrictive environment appropriate, but I see a number of students for whom the maximum extent (i.e. full inclusion) is not appropriate. I would like state law to reflect the federal law and not go beyond it.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing my thoughts and concerns.



Georganna Kresl
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