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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

July 2007

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director

Thank you for your recognition that starting at age 14 can make a difference in outcomes for students with disabilities. Intermediate Units across the state offer a variety of community based programs, life skills programming, travel and employment training. We know that starting at this age works.

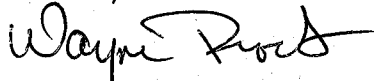
I was delighted to see that there was a clause in draft Chapter 14 that eliminated the opportunity for the LEA to be excused from the IEP meeting. The only wording that would make this stronger would be to make the LEA be an administrator so that the person sitting at the table during an IEP meeting did represent the districts perspective and could commit the resources of the district.

We have seen an emphasis on Least Restrictive Environment with the Gaskin Settlement agreement and I would suggest that Chapter 14 have language that is equal to what is required via IDEA '04.

Speech Therapists are challenged to meet the needs of their caseloads. Their situation is different from special education teachers in that they are not only the case manager but usually the person responsible for instructing the child in that field. Special education teachers may be the case manager but with regular education teachers and other special education teachers they may not take full responsibility for the education of a specific child. The caseload should be no higher than 50 due to the responsibilities placed on them.

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

Sincerely,



Wayne Proctor