

2618

Buckheit, James

From: Rhen, Linda
Sent: Monday, July 30, 2007 10:27 AM
To: 'sPhillips@iu08.org'; Tommasini, John
Cc: 'unc@iu08.org'; Buckheit, James; Cronin, Maureen C; 'lizstanleyswope@yahoo.com'; Castelbuono, Diane
Subject: Re: Chapter 14

Thank you for your comments.

Linda O. Rhen Ed.D
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Phillips <sPhillips@iu08.org>
To: lrhen@state.pa.us <lrhen@state.pa.us>; jtommasini@state.pa.us <jtommasini@state.pa.us>
CC: Dr. Barb Uncapher <unc@iu08.org>
Sent: Fri Jul 27 15:57:06 2007
Subject: Chapter 14

Regrding the prosed regulations, the new language in Chapter 14, the section on "Early Intervention Classroom Teachers" is confusing. As currently written "Teachers who provide specialized instruction in a special education classroom, shall have a caseload range of three to six eligible young children based on developmetnal levels with a maximum of 35 children", this seems to imply that a teacher cannot have more than 6 children, which is contrary to a maximum of 35 children. It also currently states "For each additional child up to six children enrolled in the classroom, one additional adult shall be provided". Does "additional child" pertain to over 3 to 6? Does developmental level continue to play into ratios? We are confused as to whether you are referring to staff ratios or teacher caseloads in the 3 to 6 description of case load. Please clarify what you are specifically referring to by "caseloads" and the "maximum of 35 children."

We are also concerned about the proposed regulations for paraprofessional qualifications. We are currently experiencing difficulty in finding enough paraprofessional support staff, especially to support our children in inclusive settings. The majority of our paraprofessionals do not meet the proposed requirements, but they are effective in supporting the teacher and carrying out their instructions. As we strive to integrate our children into typical settings, we anticipate needing additional paraprofessional support. The new regulations will limit our ability to effectively support children in these settings.

Sincerely,
Susan Phillips
Supervisor Early Education
Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8

Kerry Mastrine
Educational Consultant
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