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Buckheit, James

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From: Jan Hardy [jhardy@mcandrewslaw.com]

Sent: Monday, July 30, 2007 5:25 PM

To: j buckheit@state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

July 30, 2007

VIA EMAIL: jbuckheit@state.pa.us

Jim Buckheit
Executive Director,
Pennsylvania School Board of Education

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I write to protest two aspects of the new regulations under Chapter 14 of the School Code. As I stated in my testimony before the reviewing panel, a 60 school day period for evaluations and reevaluations is unacceptably long, and frequently makes children with disabilities to wait up to seven months to receive special education services. This 60 school day period, conflicts with the 60 calendar day period in the federal regulations, involves no child-based rationale and is, in my judgment, unconscionable.

Second, the Pennsylvania Appeals Panels serve no appropriate and useful function in this state, and virtually all stakeholders seek their elimination. A recent Wall Street Journal article revealed that across the country, these panels have become, as is frequently the case in Pennsylvania, one-sided, costly, and lacking in any useful function. Like most stakeholders in the process, I believe that they should be eliminated, and Pennsylvania should go to a one-tier system.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Very ruly yours,

Dennis C. McAndrews
DCMcA/lmb

7/31/2007