

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

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

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Dear Mr. Buckheit:

As an educator in a Pennsylvania public school, I have several concerns regarding Chapter 14. First, I would request that you recognize the expertise of current instructional paraprofessionals and consider this as meeting the requirements that you have suggested in the draft under the personnel section. I have concerns related to caseload, in addition. The caseload chart does suggest moves we have seen in education recently, however, consider implementing a caseload of 50 for Speech Language Support because of the increased severity of students on those caseloads and institute a Level II maximum caseload of 20 for special education support. I would also request that you maintain 60 school days for evaluation purposes. Allowing enough time for observations to be done during peak periods allows for a more thorough evaluation. Hearing Interpreters are required to attend training, but this should be free of charge and they should be compensated for their time. Least Restrictive Environment regulations should follow IDEA to reflect the federal law and not go beyond the federal law's intent. I would recommend that the Local Education Agency representative be required to be the administrator at IEP meetings. Please

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Take these recommendations of a stakeholder as wanting
the best for special education students throughout
Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Barlene Kengel

520 Daily Dr.

North Huntingdon, PA 15642