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**From:** Nichole Kopco [mailto:nlk@iu08.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 01, 2007 11:57 AM  
**To:** jtommasini@state.pa.us; lrhen@state.pa.us  
**Cc:** Dr. Barb Uncapher  
**Subject:** Comments on Chapter 14

# 2618

Dear Mr. Tommasini & Dr. Rhen,

The purpose of this email is to address my concerns regarding the proposed Paraeducator Requirement of having a post-secondary education degree and passing a rigorous test. This would place a significant burden on Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8. Within our four county region, we have approximately 160 paraeducators that serve our students. Most of our paraeducators are functioning as personal care aides and are not responsible for providing instruction to students. Those who are supporting students are doing so under the direct guidance of the classroom teacher. In addition, we always have paraeducator vacancies within IU8 and find it quite challenging to obtain substitutes when our paraeducators take time off. Therefore, should these proposed regulations pass, it would present an increased shortage of available paraeducators that are needed to serve our students. I also believe that staff and overall classroom cost could become a major factor with this

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requirement. In short, I feel that meeting the needs of our students, when faced with an insufficient amount of employable support staff, would be extremely taxing and would ultimately have a negative impact on the quality of the educational programs that are provided to our students.

Respectfully Submitted,

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