

Buckheit, James

From: Buckheit, James
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2007 11:38 AM
To: 'Carol Contino'
Subject: RE: Paraprofessional Training

RECEIVED

2007 OCT 29 PM 1:15

Dear Ms. Contino:

#2618

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I write to acknowledge receipt of your comments concerning the proposed Chapter 14 regulations of the State Board of Education that were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on June 30, 2007. Copies of your comments will be provided to the leadership of the House and Senate Education Committees, Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and each member of the State Board of Education.

Members of the State Board will carefully consider your comments as they prepare the final form regulation. If you would like to be notified by mail and receive a copy of the final form regulation when it is submitted for final approval by the House and Senate Education Committees and IRRC, please send a written request to my attention at the address printed below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with the State Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Jim Buckheit
State Board of Education
333 Market Street, 1st floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333

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

From: Carol Contino [mailto:ccontino@northampton.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2007 11:02 AM
To: 00statbd@psupen.psu.edu
Subject: Paraprofessional Training

I am writing to support Section 14.105 Personnel section of the Chapter 14 - Special Education Services and Programs. I believe that a paraprofessional should have (1) at least 2 years of secondary study and (2) Possess an Associate Degree and that this should be implemented. I would also like to see those paraprofessional who were hired before July 1, 2008 be required to take the courses necessary to obtain an Associates Degree.

In my nine years of experience with our school system, being a parent of an autistic son, I have found that most of the instructional aides, as well as many teachers are not trained to work with children with autism. I have also found that the training provided to the instructional aides is not nearly enough to help them understand the disability, to train them to work with our children and to provide positive behavior techniques during the school day. I also find it unbelievable that regular education teachers are not required to take courses which would help them work with our children.

Very truly yours,

Carol Contino