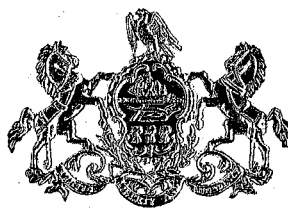


2635

17th District
Constance H. Williams

- SENATE BOX 203017
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3017
TELEPHONE: (717) 787-5544
FAX: (717) 705-7741
- 700 SOUTH HENDERSON ROAD
SUITE 100-A
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406
TELEPHONE: (610) 992-9790
FAX: (610) 768-3104
- MANOA SHOPPING CENTER
1305 WEST CHESTER PIKE
SUITE 39
HAVERTOWN, PA 19083
TELEPHONE (610) 853-5433
FAX: (610) 853-5436

Democratic Caucus Administrator



Senate of Pennsylvania

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SERVICES CAUCUS
LUPUS CAUCUS

E-MAIL: chwilliams@pasenate.com
WEBSITE: www.senatorconniewilliams.com

January 25, 2008

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

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

As the State Board of Education moves forward with draft final regulations of Chapter 16, I ask that you revisit and add to the regulations compliance monitoring procedures that include sanctions for noncompliance.

Recently, I received a letter from a constituent who has three children who were identified as gifted learners (additionally, she is an officer with the local advocacy group for gifted learners). The parent expressed concerns over the shortcomings in the proposed regulations, noting that without compliance monitoring procedures (which had been included for parents of gifted students under Chapter 14), more parents likely will be forced to file for due process, which has little positive impact on the student, the family, or the school district. Additionally, she noted that when faced with legal bills of \$15,000 or more, some parents may view private schooling as a better option for educating their gifted child.

Gifted students in Pennsylvania deserve access to educational opportunities that comply with state regulations. And if schools choose to deviate from those standards, there should be a system in place for parents to address shortcomings – real or perceived – without resorting to legal proceedings, which end up costing not only the families and school districts, but ultimately the taxpayers.

Pennsylvania can ill afford to turn away our best and brightest from public schools. I urge the State Board of Education to act now (before it votes a final form) to correct what may turn into a costly deficiency in the Chapter 14 regulations.

Sincerely,

Connie Williams

Constance H. Williams
State Senator
17th District

Cc: Sen. James Rhoades
Sen. Raphael Musto

RECEIVED

JAN 25 2008

**PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2008 FEB - 4 AM 10:16

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 29, 2008

The Honorable Constance H. Williams
Senate of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Room 352
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Senator Williams:

I write in response to your January 25, 2008 letter in which you request the State Board of Education to revisit its proposed regulation that requires the Secretary of Education to establish requirements for compliance monitoring of school districts to assure compliance with the Chapter 16 gifted education regulations.

The State Board is currently reviewing all the comments received in response to publication of proposed regulations in the Pennsylvania Bulletin last fall. Many of the letters received included comments about the compliance monitoring requirements. At a meeting of the Board committee responsible for this regulation held January 16, 2008, members expressed an interest in addressing the monitoring requirements more fully. The Committee will continue to develop draft final requirements which will be posted on the Board's web pages and discussed in public committee meetings prior to the planned adoption of the final regulations on March 20.

Copies of your letter will be shared with Mollie O'Connell Phillips, chair of the Chapter 14/16 Committee and all members of the State Board for their consideration.

If I can be of additional assistance, please contact me at (717) 787-3787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Buckheit".

Jim Buckheit
Executive Director

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

#2635.

DATE: February 1, 2008
TO: State Board of Education Members
FROM: Barbara Baker, Administrative Assistant
SUBJECT: Chapter 16 Public Comment

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2008 FEB -4 AM 10:15

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Enclosed is a letter from Senator Williams with
comments on Chapter 16 for your review.