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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

#2635

2755 Lewisberry Road

York, PA 17404

March 10, 2008

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Mr Buckheit,
Dear ~~Fellow Pennsylvanian~~,

One of our state's problems is the brain drain of our bright and talented youth to other states once they become adults.

There may be multiple reasons for this, but assuming intelligent young couples will want to settle in a good school district for their children, these people might stay home in Pennsylvania if they were to remember having been well educated themselves as children.

Investment in gifted education, then, might be an important key to keeping Pennsylvanian families in Pennsylvania.

Currently the education laws that mandate gifted education are being revised (Chapter 16). Two critical issues not addressed in the new version are: (1) compliance monitoring and (2) caseload.

Compliance monitoring must be included or there will continue to be school districts that do little or substandard teaching for bright children. Unless there is a complaint process that can be activated by parents, nothing will improve in these districts.

Caseload is the twin requirement. In my district, Central York, for instance, one severely overworked person is assigned to all the elementary children in the gifted program in grades 1-6. She travels between five schools in a large district serving about 70 students. The district could easily hire more faculty—its financial situation is quite good, so why has it not done so?.

Improved gifted education for Pennsylvania children is a win-win proposition reaping long term benefits for our commonwealth in the next generation. Please support the inclusion of these two additions to Chapter 16 and raise the bar in education.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Harris

Anne Harris, parent