

From: Buckheit, James
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2007 4:09 PM
To: 'Cheryl Kirk'
Subject: RE: The Genius Problem - Time, August 2007

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Dear Ms. Kirk -

Thank you for your comments. They will be considered as "official" comments submitted in response to the proposed changes published by the State Board of Education in the September 8, 2007 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. As required by the Regulatory Review Act, your comments will be shared with the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). They will also be shared with each member of the State Board of Education.

Should you wish to be notified and receive a copy of the final regulations when they are submitted to the legislative committees and IRRC for approval, please send me your mailing (not email) address and you will be added to our mailing list.

Please note that the State Board of Education has no authority over education funding including that for charter schools. In addition, the State Board of Education is prohibited by state law from regulating the provision of either special education or gifted education services in charter schools.

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

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

From: Cheryl Kirk [mailto:cheryl@the-kirks.com]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2007 3:20 PM
To: 00statbd@psupen.psu.edu
Cc: dpileggi@pasen.gov
Subject: The Genius Problem - Time, August 2007

I would like to draw your attention to the article featured in Time magazine August 27th, which from my own experience accurately describes the problems facing gifted students in our area.

I am the mother of a profoundly gifted 8th grade son, and we face exactly the issues described in the article. His school (Avon Grove Charter) has been immensely flexible and supportive, and have tailored a schedule combining Middle and High school classes just for him. I believe they are doing everything they can to nurture his talent, and yet it appalls me to learn that as a Charter school they receive no additional funding for these 'special' students. There are two issues here. One, that the funding for Charter schools is not egalitarian with Public Schools, and second, that the education of our gifted students is not egalitarian with others considered to have 'special needs'.

Regards
Cheryl Kirk