

2635

Gelnett, Wanda B.

RECEIVED

Oct 1
2007 SEP 31 AM 7:53INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Schalles, Scott R.
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2007 7:37 AM
To: Gelnett, Wanda B.
Cc: Wilmarth, Fiona E.
Subject: FW: Chapter 16 Comments

Wanda,

Public comment on 2635.

Thanks.

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

From: Allison Brink [mailto:akbrink@ptd.net]
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2007 12:33 PM
To: Schalles, Scott R.
Subject: Chapter 16 Comments

Dear Mr. Schalles,

The biggest problem with Chapter 16 is that there is nothing written about compliance. School should have to comply with Chapter 16 or face action from the PDE. I understand that compliance checks began last year. However, simply determining if a child has had a GIEP is not sufficient. It is a good place to start. The PDE should be determining if a school district is in compliance with ALL the regulations of Chapter 16. If the district is not, they should be afforded a set amount of time to become compliant, or face a large monetary penalty or withdrawal of funding. Schools must take Chapter 16 seriously.

A GIEP is identified as a Gifted Individualized Education Program. It seems that many districts do not understand the meaning. A full explanation should be written into the statutes.

Present level of Education Performance needs to be defined with examples. School districts routinely use the child's grades from the previous years and PSSA scores to define PLEPs. Neither of which tells the team the student's level of performance.

Teachers should be required to complete some continuing education credits on gifted education on a yearly basis. As it stands now, the school district has to offer courses on gifted education; the teachers do not have to attend. Every teacher will have a gifted student in his or her classroom; they should know how to teach them. Our colleges do not properly prepare teachers to teach gifted students. Most courses of study in Pennsylvania cover gifted education in one day. Gifted students have needs that are not being met by our teachers.

Finally, our state of Pennsylvania does not properly fund gifted education. We must realize that many of our gifted students are our future leaders, researchers, writers, philosophers. Our gifted students spend too much time in classrooms watching other children learn and not being challenged in any way. We must provide funding to educate our teachers to teach gifted students; we must provide funding so that there are appropriate resources in the classroom for gifted students; and we must provide funding so that our gifted teachers are not overloaded.

Sincerely,

Allison Brink

akbrink@ptd.net

7763 Carlton Rd.

Coopersburg, PA 18036

610-838-6831

10/1/2007