

**Buckheit, James**

RECEIVED

**From:** Buckheit, James  
**Sent:** Friday, October 05, 2007 8:44 AM  
**To:** 'Nicole Saporito'  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on Proposed Changes to Chapter 16 - Gifted Education

2007 OCT -9 AM 9: 57

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Saporito:

I write to acknowledge receipt of your comments that were submitted to the State Board of Education and others concerning the proposed Chapter 16 regulations of the State Board of Education that were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on September 8, 2007. You can access a copy of the proposed regulations at:

<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol37/37-36/1654.html>

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.

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

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

**From:** Nicole Saporito [mailto:nicolesap@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2007 9:56 PM  
**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.us; lbaker@pasen.gov; info@phyllismundy.com; sschalles@irrc.state.pa.us; musto@pasenate.com; jyudichak@pa.house.net  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Changes to Chapter 16 - Gifted Education

Dear Governor Rendell, Members of the IRRC, Mr. Buckheit, Mr. Schalles, Senate Education Committee, State Senator Baker, State Senator Musto, State Representative Yudichak and State Representative Mundy;

I am writing to you to voice my concerns about the proposed changes in Chapter 16 Regulations regarding Gifted Children in Pennsylvania. My children attend the Wyoming Valley West School District. I have serious concerns that gifted education would be negatively affected if the proposed changes to Chapter 16 are implemented.

A recent Time Magazine article stated the United States "is wasting its most precious commodity - gifted students". These are the children who will be part of the generation that will potentially find a cure for cancer and save the planet from global warming. In order for these milestones to happen, our state and federal offices must encourage and support enriched gifted programs that allow students to reach their full potential.

10/5/2007

The following details my viewpoint of the proposed changes:

**1. Class Size (16.41)** should be limited to 20 students. The gifted elementary program at WWW (Grades 1-5) is a magnet school with a full-day program with 100+ students. Since meeting the needs of gifted students requires an individualized plan, an increase to 25 would be **detrimental to the gifted program in my district as a whole and to the individual students in the program.**

**2. Compliance Monitoring:** Currently, the minimal amount of compliance monitoring that is available for us not enough. Chapter 16 should be updated to embed compliance monitoring language and procedures to be followed. There should also be a process by which parental complaints can be filed and investigated by the PDE.

**3.** I support the **Case Load (16.41)** being limited to 60 students. This should be the maximum allowed on a full-time gifted teacher's roster.

**4. Criteria used for Identification** should not focus solely on IQ. The wording in section **16.21** should be changed to:

...includes a person who has an IQ of 130 or higher **OR** when multiple criteria as set forth in this chapter and in Department Guidelines indicate gifted ability....

**5. Graduation Planning** should also be implemented in Chapter 16. A student should receive credit for high school classes taken at the Middle School level. It is the responsibility of the school districts to meet the gifted students' needs at every level.

In summary, I am asking that these comments be presented to the IRRC, the State Board of Education, the Senate Education Committee and any others involved in the proposed changes to Chapter 16. I also urge you to make decisions that are in the best interest of the students.

I look forward to your response of the above concerns.

Sincerely,

*Nicole Saporito*

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10/5/2007