

2635

Gelnett, Wanda B.

RECEIVED

From: Schalles, Scott R.
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 8:37 AM
To: Gelnett, Wanda B.
Subject: FW: Proposed Changes to Chapter 16 - Gifted Education-Comments for your attention

2007 OCT 10 AM 9:49

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY

2635

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

From: Murali Panen [mailto:muralitp@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2007 8:16 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; lbaker@pasen.gov; info@phyllismundy.com; Schalles, Scott R.; musto@pasenate.com; jyudichak@pa.house.net
Subject: Proposed Changes to Chapter 16 - Gifted Education-Comments for your attention

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 son attend the Wyoming Valley West School District, Kingston. 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". The Templeton Report on Acceleration also highlights how schools hold back America's brightest students. Recent report indicates, over the past few years U.S. has been losing dominance in science to European and Asian Nations. The state must encourage and support enriched gifted programs that allow students to reach their full potential.

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 WWV (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. Case load (16.41): I support the **Case Load** 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 our gifted students.

I look forward to your response of the above concerns.

Sincerely,

10/10/2007

Murali Panen, Ph.D
80 South Dawes Ave.
Kingston, PA 18704

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10/10/2007