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From: Nicole Saporito [mailto:nicolesap@msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2007 3:32 PM

To: musto@pasenate.com; jbuckheit@state.pa.us; lbaker@pasen.gov

Subject: Oct. 31st House Education Committee Meeting : Comments on Proposed Changes to Chapter 16 - Gifted Educatoin

Mr. Buckheit, State Senator Baker, State Representative Yudichak and Senator Musto;

I am writing to again 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.

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. 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 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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