

September 21, 2008

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Christopher Grovich, Esq.
State Board of Dentistry
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17015-2649

Dear Mr. Grovich,

I am not in favor of the new proposed dental regulations as it pertains to the "certified public health dental practioner" in a school setting. There are guidelines already established with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health for school dental hygienists.

We must be "certified" as an Educational Specialist with the Department of Education, which requires advance college credits. The term "certified" will create confusion. However, we do need better access to care. For example, nursing homes, head starts and pre-schools do need our services.

Our college level education better trains us to meet the needs of the school population in our roles as clinicians, counselors, social workers and teachers. We also write grants and our programs curriculumms.

I feel passage of this language will hurt the school dental health programs and would be in direction violation of the current regulations and PDE and DOH guidelines already in place.

Please delete schools from this section.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Martha J. Rhodes, RDH.

Martha J. Rhodes, RDH, BS
Certified school dental hygienist

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SEP 23 2008



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