



PENNSYLVANIA HEAD START ASSOCIATION

PARENTS, STAFF, ADMINISTRATORS AND FRIENDS AFFILIATED FOR CHILDREN

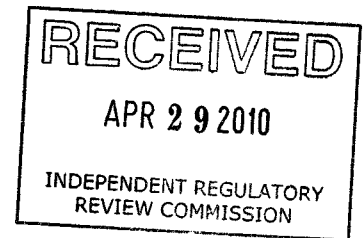
Barbara Mahaney – Board President

Blair Hyatt - Executive Director

2817

April 29, 2010

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



RE: Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts final omitted regulations (#6-319)

Dear Commission members:

I am writing to express the continued support by the Pennsylvania Head Start Association for the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts final omitted regulations re-submitted to you on April 7, 2010 (#6-319) and to address the Association's position on some of the issues raised about how to best promote inclusive classrooms.

PHSA is a state-wide, 501C3 member organization representing the children, families, administrators and staff of the Head Start and Early Head Start grantees across the Commonwealth. Over forty of the Head Start grantees are also Pre K Counts grantees or partners. The Association is actively involved in improving the lives of families and children, particularly those with low-income. Our purpose is to improve the future for children and families by providing quality leadership, training, information and advocacy at the local, state, regional and national levels.

The quality expectations of Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, which are included in the regulations, are essential to gaining positive outcomes for our young children. Research has shown many positive effects of including children with disabilities in early childhood programs. The benefits accrue not only to children with disabilities but also to children with typical development, their families, classroom teachers, and the community at large.

The regulations support inclusion and require that all programs be open to children with identified developmental delays and or disabilities.

The regulations require approved providers to collaborate with infant/toddler and preschool Early Intervention services to provide a smooth transition for children entering classrooms, facilitate the Early Intervention services needed for children enrolled in PA Pre-K Counts classrooms, and facilitate identification of children who are not receiving Early Intervention services but are eligible.

The regulations as proposed will provide for typical inclusive Pre K Counts classroom settings in a flexible manor without discriminating against special needs.



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PA Pre K Counts works. PA Pre-K Counts has been a contributing factor to the increase of EI children in typical settings. Historically, less than 50% of preschool children receiving Early Intervention services received their services in typical early childhood settings. Since the creation of PA Pre-K Counts and targeted efforts to promote inclusion in PA Pre-K Counts classrooms, 15% more preschool children receiving Early Intervention services are enrolled in typical classroom settings.

The regulations proposed will support the continuation of the increased numbers of EI children in typical classrooms.

Please approve the Final-Omitted Regulations #6-319 in full.

Respectfully,

Blair Hyatt
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Head Start Association

2817

From: Blair Hyatt [blair@paheadstart.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 3:17 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: PHSA Support of Revised Pre K Regulations
Attachments: PKC Regs Support letter May 2010.doc

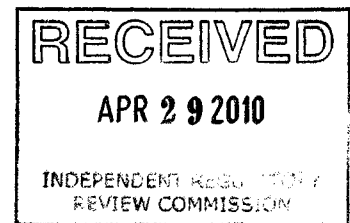
Honorable Chairman Arthur Coccodrilli and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

Attached is a letter of support from the Pennsylvania Head Start Association for the proposed Pre K regulations (#3-619). Thank for you hard work addressing these important issues.

Respectfully,

Blair Hyatt

Blair Hyatt
Executive Director
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