



Jones, Stephanie

From: JOSEPH COLEMAN <drjtc30@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 4:40 PM
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: [External] Public comment on proposed changes to Chapter 49

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Dear Executive Director Molchanow:
Please accept my comments to the State Board of Education on the proposed changes to Chapter 49.
Thank you.

Joseph T. Coleman, Ed.D.
85 Beddington Lane
Strasburg, PA 17579

Supervisory Certificate 49.111
Subsection (e) is proposed to be added to permit school psychologists who have completed 5 years of satisfactory experience as a certified school psychologist to be issued a Special Education Supervisory Certificate. The Board suggests this revision to help increase the availability of qualified special education supervisors in this Commonwealth.

Comments:

If the Board truly wants to address the shortage of qualified supervisors of special education it should look to the legions of special education classroom teachers already knowledgeable in the delivery of specially designed instruction as active practitioners. Awarding a supervisory certificate to individuals (school psychologists) primarily responsible to assist in the identification of individuals in need of special education who don't actually provide direct instructional services on a day in, day out basis is like asking one of your pre-teen children riding in the back of your car if they would like to drive the car.

Five years as a school psychologist may solidify your practice as a school psychologist but does nothing to qualify you to supervise the provision of instructional services to individuals with disabilities let alone supervise and evaluate those providing direct special education instructional services.

Special education teachers with five years of instructional experience should be able to qualify for a supervisor of special education certificate after proper training and assessment but never a school psychologist just because they have five years of experience.

These comments are made based on my 40+ years as a special educator with 35 of those years as a public and private school administrator and certified supervisor of special education who supervised special education personnel including school psychologists.