



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MARGARET M. O'NEILL BUILDING
410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1
DOVER, DE 19901

VOICE: (302) 739-3620
TTY/TDD: (302) 739-3699
FAX: (302) 739-6704

February 17, 2012

Mr. Charlie Michels, Executive Director
Professional Standards Board
Townsend Building
401 Federal Street
Dover, DE 19901

RE: 15 DE Reg. 1109 [DOE Proposed Professional Development Standards Reg.]

Dear Mr. Michels:

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Professional Standards Board's [in collaboration with the Department of Education (DOE)] proposal to adopt a new set of professional development standards applicable to educators. The proposed regulation was published as 15 DE Reg. 1109 in the January 1, 2012 issue of the Register of Regulations. In a nutshell, the Board is adopting the National Staff Development Council's "Standards for Professional Learning (Learning Forward, 2011) guidelines (§§1.1-1.3). SCPD has the following observations.

First, there are some positive aspects to the standards with a disability nexus. For example, §2.5 recites that "(l)ike all learners, educators learn in different ways and at different rates." Section 7.3 notes that the "characteristics of the learners" should influence "decisions about learning designs". Section 2.2 recites that "(a)n Educator's commitment to all students is the foundation of effective professional learning." Enhanced results for "all students" is an established goal (§§6.2, 9.1, and 9.3). A "team" approach based on the concept of "learning communities" is emphasized (§3.0). Educators are held to "high standards" (§9.2). SCPD endorses these features.

Second, in §1.1, the word "Council" should be substituted for "Counsel".

Third, in §1.3, the following edits should be considered:

A. In the first sentence, substitute "is" for "are". A summary is set forth..."

B. In the second sentence, "in-depth" should be substituted for "in depth". See attached definition from Merriam-Webster dictionary.

C. In the second sentence, “are” should be substituted for “is”. The compound subject, “descriptions, explanations, examples, criteria and guidance”, should be followed by a plural verb.

Fourth, in §5.4, the compound subject, “understanding and tracking” should be followed by a plural verb. The word “facilitate” should be substituted for “facilitates”.

Fifth, in §6.2, the word “data” is a plural noun. The word “lead” should be substituted for “leads”.

Sixth, §6.2 refers to “increased results for every student.” Section 9.3 similarly refers to “increases results for all students”. See also §6.1 and §9.1 references to “increases ...results”. “Increasing results” is an odd term since the “increased/more” results could be “good” or “bad”. Other sections (§8.2 and 9.4) more appropriately adopt a standard of “increases in student learning”. SCPD recommends substitution of this concept. Alternatively, the references could be amended to refer to “enhanced student performance” or “improved student performance results”.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our observations on the proposed regulation.

Sincerely,



Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: The Honorable Lillian Lowery
Dr. Teri Quinn Gray
Ms. Mary Ann Mieczkowski
Ms. Paula Fontello, Esq.
Ms. Terry Hickey, Esq.
Mr. John Hindman, Esq.
Ms. Susan Haberstroh
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Developmental Disabilities Council
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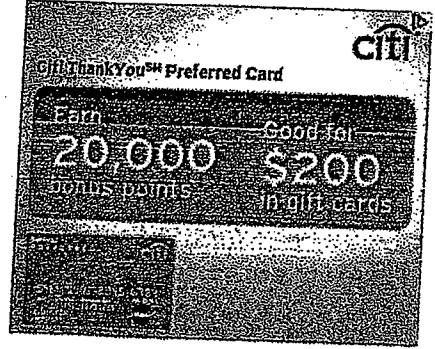
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