

**GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS**

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October 15, 2015

Chris Kenton, Executive Director
Delaware Professional Standards Board
Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901

RE: 19 DE Reg. 241/14 DE Admin. Code 1583 PSB/DOE Proposed School Psychologist Regulation (October 1, 2015)

Dear Mr. Kenton:

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed the proposal of the Professional Standards Board, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to amend its standards for the credentialing of school psychologists. The current standards require the completion of a graduate level program of school psychology approved by either the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) or the American Psychological Association (APA). The amendment to completion of the graduate level program is as follows: "culminating in an ~~Masters with an additional~~ Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree or its equivalent or a Doctoral degree in School Psychology".

Council **endorses** the proposed amendments since they appear to more closely align with NASP standards and would like to share the following observations.

First, the language used in the rationale for the changes is somewhat vague, i.e., "...to clear up some language under additional requirements necessary to become a School Psychologist". At 242.

Second, consistent with information from NASP, it does appear that the current reference to "Masters with an additional Educational Specialist (Ed.S) degree" could be problematic. A graduate student may acquire essentially a single, combined degree. Moreover, NASP materials indicate that it recognizes "equivalent" degrees/programs:

Specialist Degree or Equivalent (e.g. , Master's Degree Totaling 60 Semester Credits or More) Please note: Many programs award a master's degree after completing the 3rd year internship, while other programs award a master's degree after two years of coursework prior to internship. As long as the program is a minimum of 60 credits and requires a minimum of a 1,200 hour internship, these programs are considered "specialist equivalents".

Thank you for your consideration of our observations. Please contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Overmiller
Chairperson

RDO:kpc

CC: The Honorable Dr. Steven H. Godowsky, Secretary of Education
Dr. Teri Quinn Gray, State Board of Education
Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Department of Education
Tina Shockley, Department of Education
Matthew Korobkin, Department of Education
Kathleen Geiszler, Esq.
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