



ADDISON CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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June 2, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Business Office
802-382-1273
Student Services
802-382-1287

I am writing to you as the Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Professional Development for the Addison Central Supervisory Union in Middlebury, VT.

■ It has come to my attention that the American Psychological Association is proposing to change its Model Licensure Act by eliminating the exemption from licensure for specialist level/specialist level School Psychology Practitioners. This letter is to voice **strong opposition** to such an action. This proposal is not in the best interests of children and families for these reasons:

Wm. Lee Sease
Superintendent

Janice J. Willey
Associate
Superintendent

Josh Blumberg
Director of Information
Technology Services

Sharon L. Stearns
Business Manager

Vicki A. Wells, Ed.D
Director of
Student Services

Warren Uzzie
Associate Director of
Student Services

• The proposal would reduce the work force in our schools by eliminating the positions of the majority of the current School Psychologists, most of whom are master's level/specialist-level practitioners certified by the Vermont State Department of Education. The level of service delivery to our students with disabilities would be severely impacted. This would mean that even less crisis intervention and prevention services would be available for the general education population. This is simply not acceptable in these difficult times.

• There is no room in our already pared-down school budgets to hire large numbers of doctoral-level School Psychologists. All school administrators are struggling to maintain current staff levels to avoid overwhelming teachers and support staff.

• The removal of specialist level/specialist-level School Psychology Practitioners from the landscape of public education in Vermont and around the country would be significant at the State Education Department level. At the local building level, administrators would simply not be able to effectively respond to the immediate needs of large numbers of parents and students.

Bridport
Cornwall
Middlebury I.D. #4
Ripton
Salisbury
Shoreham
Union District #3
Weybridge

You must withdraw this proposal immediately.

Janice J. Willey, Associate Superintendent of Schools
Addison Central Supervisory Union

Equal
Opportunity
Employer