



Douglas County School System

P.O. Box 1077 ~ Douglasville, GA 30133 ~ 770-651-2000 ~ www.douglas.k12.ga.us

Donald J. Remillard, Superintendent

May 18, 2009

APA Model Licensure Revision Task Force
American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

To the Members of the Model Licensure Act Task Force:

As the Executive Director of Special Education for the Douglas County School System in Georgia and supervisor to School Psychologists, I have grave concerns about the American Psychological Association's proposed changes to its Model Licensure Act by eliminating the exemption from licensure for school psychologists. The purpose of this letter is to voice my strong opposition to this action.

In Georgia, the Psychology Licensing board regulates the independent practice of psychology. In contrast, School Psychology is regulated by the Professional Standard Commission, which provides credentialing for all professionals in education. School psychologists are specifically funded in the public schools and are already extensively regulated. This includes rigorous university training programs, long internships, strict credentialing, regular renewal of certificates and daily supervision. School psychologists in Georgia have been functioning effectively for over 40 years. To suggest that they suddenly need to be regulated by a state board that licenses private practices is unconscionable and holds questionable motivation.

It is my belief that this action would cause harm to children in public school and to their families by denying and delaying needed services in the schools. Many of these services are required by federal law and state regulation. School psychologists are a fundamental and respected part of public education and any action that would disrupt their provision of services is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christi B. Teal".

Christi B. Teal
Executive Director, Special Education

Cc: Mr. Don Remillard, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. David Whitfield, Chief of Staff
Ms. Kimberly Evans, Lead Psychologist