



FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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"Where Excellence Counts"

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April 30, 2009

APA Model Licensure Revision Task Force
Attention: Practice Directorate, Omar Rehman
750 1st Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is in reference to the proposed change by the American Psychological Association (APA) to its Model Licensure Act that eliminates the exception from licensure for school psychologists. We are strongly opposed to such an action.

Implementing this change would have a significant negative impact on children and their education. These changes would also cause confusion and would undoubtedly impede the delivery of needed education, behavioral, emotional, and social (psychological) services to children. The school psychologists provide these high quality services in schools that improve the outcomes of children and youth enabling them to achieve in school and in life. These specialized professionals are highly valued in the schools because of the unique combination of rigorous graduate training in psychology and education. This proposed change in the MLA exemption would unjustly remove the rights of more than 75% of practicing school psychologists (20,000+) to use their title for which they are legitimately credentialed and qualified.

The proposed changes in the MLA exemption would allow licensed psychologists to bypass the requirements of the Professional Standards Commission, which provides credentialing for all professionals in education. Allowing licensed psychologists, who have not had adequate training and experience to work in schools as school psychologists may put children at risk for harm.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly advise the APA to reinstate the exemption in section J for all school psychologists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John D. DeCotis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

John D. DeCotis, Superintendent
Fayette County Schools

JDD:kcs