



Douglas County School System

P.O. Box 1077 ~ Douglasville, GA 30133 ~ 770-651-2030 ~ www.douglas.k12.ga.us

Donald J. Remillard, Superintendent

May 11, 2009

The Honorable Congressman Lynn Westmoreland
1601-B East Highway 34
Newnan, Georgia 30265

Dear Congressman Westmoreland:

The American Psychological Association is proposing a significant change to the Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists.

The current Act allows for state licensing boards to provide license/certificates for school psychologists. In Georgia, this is the responsibility of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC).

School psychologists in Georgia attend a rigorous graduate level curriculum and internship and currently qualify for certification by the Georgia PSC with a Specialists degree. Their training is designed to work with students in a school setting.

The change in the Model Act would eliminate the hiring and use of a school psychologist with less than a doctoral degree. Simply stated, this change would cause us to have to terminate the employment of many competent school psychologists currently working with a Specialists degree. It would also make it much more difficult to find certified school psychologists to hire to replace those who would lose their job and it would increase the cost of the program to school systems during a time we are experiencing massive budget cuts.

Any help you could give us in discouraging the APA from making this change would be appreciated.

I am enclosing a document which gives a brief overview of the change APA is considering along with a letter from me and another one from State Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox that was mailed to APA when the consideration of the change was made public.

Thank you for all you do for the children in our public schools.

Sincerely,


Donald J. Remillard
Superintendent

Enclosure