



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Mark E. Emblidge, Ph.D.
President

BOARD OF EDUCATION
413 Stuart Circle, Suite 303
Richmond, Virginia 23220
(804) 237-8909
(804) 237-8901 (FAX)

July 18, 2008

The Honorable William J. Howell
Speaker of the House
Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 8296
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing with regards to concerns that you raised in your letter to Secretary of Education Thomas R. Morris regarding proposed revisions to the *Regulations Governing Special Education Services for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*. Approximately 2,240 persons have filed nearly 20,700 comments. Board members and Virginia Department of Education staff were present at nine public hearings conducted around the Commonwealth. Among the issues of greatest concern are the proposals to eliminate parental consent for termination of special education when the child is determined to no longer need special education services and to move the special education due process hearing system from the Supreme Court to the Virginia Department of Education. These were likewise among the concerns noted in your letter.

I want to assure you that the Board has listened very carefully to the voices of Virginia citizens. Retaining the current requirements of the issues noted above and making certain that parental involvement is not curtailed will be of high priority as we continue the process to finalize these regulations. We anticipate reviewing the final draft during our September 25 meeting. I, along with Department of Education staff, am available to meet with you to further discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Emblidge".

Mark E. Emblidge, Ph.D.

MEE/hdc

cc: The Honorable Thomas R. Morris
Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.
Dr. Patricia I. Wright