



December 20, 2004

Dr. Sharron Nelson  
Director, Bureau of Teacher Certification and Preparation  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Dr. Nelson,

Based on the information presented on Wednesday, September 29, 2004, concerning changes to the Certification and Staffing Policy Guidelines, the purpose of this letter is to verify my understanding of the recent changes and to inform PDE of changes anticipated in Penn State's Instructional Technology Specialist and Supervisory programs.

First, please verify the following statements we believe summarize the discussion regarding recent changes.

- The need for the Instructional Technology Specialist Certification is being questioned, and this certification is likely to be eliminated in the near future.
- Technology Specialist Certification is currently only required by school district staff who advise on the application of technology in curriculum for students and/or teachers.
- Technology Coordinators serving in other roles including the design and delivery of technology-related professional development for teachers, network design, technology support, technology planning, technology grant writing, and other activities not directly related to advising on curriculum for students do not require certification.

The implications we see evolving from these changes include:

- Dramatic reduction in the number of candidates for ITS certification.
- Virtual elimination of the pool of candidates for ITS Supervisory certification.
- PDE's definition of the knowledge, skills, and experiences that technology specialists should have needs to be reevaluated.
- As a result of the redefinition, there is a dramatic need for revision of the contents of technology specialist certification programs.

Because of the changes and projected impact on the number of candidates for Instructional Technology Specialist Certification and because of the numerous certification programs that exist in the state, it seems that Penn State's commitment to prepare technology coordinators is no longer needed. Therefore, if the assumptions appear correct, we intend to inform existing Instructional Technology Specialist candidates of the changes, honor existing commitments to candidates who have begun the program who choose to complete it, and not accept any new candidates into the program and terminate the program when the last student has finished.

Please review and correct or confirm the assumptions presented. I may be reached by phone at 814-865-2525 or via e-mail at [kpeck@psu.edu](mailto:kpeck@psu.edu).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kyle L. Peck, Ph.D.  
Professor of Education  
Associate Dean for Outreach, Technology, and International Programs

cc: Michael Golden, Karen Turner, Clifton Edwards, Horst Von Dorpowski, Janice Ascolese, Ann Noonan