

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

APR - 3 1998

David L. Porretta, Ph.D.
NCPERID President
202 Pomerene Hall
1760 Neil Avenue
Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Dear Dr. Porretta:

Thank you for continuing our professional dialogue that began in July of 1994 during the Annual Meeting of the National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPERID). The position statement developed by NCPERID during its 1997 Annual Meeting, and sent to me for review at this time, expresses a studied approach to maintaining high quality discretionary programs under IDEA 1997. Those programs would reflect sound principles of research and lead to exemplary venues for service delivery. As NCPERID has noted, refining professional development programs for adapted physical educators with the inherent goals of IDEA 1997; Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), will strengthen professional development programs and ensure their continued validity.

I would like to comment on two areas of concern expressed in the NCPERID position statement:

(1) Although adapted physical education professional development programs have not traditionally centered solely on one disability group, as defined by low or high incidences disabilities, they have included recognized course concentrations or formal endorsements in either low or high incidences programming, which would meet the Office of Special Education Programs' guidelines for either the low or high incidences priority. A comprehensive professional development program, with the appropriate concentration or endorsement, would ensure that all children with disabilities would benefit from appropriately prepared adapted physical educators. As such, a university's request for funding would relate solely to the clearly defined program concentration or endorsement of either low or high incidences disabilities; and

(2) With regard to the concern expressed by the members of the NCPERID about the composite of the standing panels, let me assure you that every effort is being taken to include representatives from all program areas as members of the standing panels. Adapted physical educators and therapeutic recreation specialists will contribute significantly to these panels.

I am looking forward to meeting with you on April 20, 1998 and having the opportunity to continue this discussion.

Sincerely,



Thomas Hehir, Ed. D.
Director
Office of Special Education Programs