



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
333 MARKET STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333  
[www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us)

August 24, 2007

Dear Superintendent,

As part of our ongoing commitment to children and education, we are pleased to provide your district with the following materials that reflect the education of children in the least restrictive environment in Pennsylvania. These materials are designed to communicate to all who enter your school buildings, regardless of disability or diversity, the message of acceptance and equality.

As we work together to set high expectations and meet the needs of each young person in our schools, these resources are intended to be a reminder of the importance of developing school communities where every student and family feels welcome.

This welcome packet of materials is available for each building located within your district. Inside each packet are the following resources:

- A **welcome poster** for each building. One design is intended for your elementary schools and the other for your secondary buildings. Please ask each building principal to place these in a prominent area where they will receive maximum exposure when school resumes for the 2007-08 year.

We also have versions of these posters in Spanish. Please contact Marci Davis at PaTTAN Harrisburg ([mdavis@pattan.net](mailto:mdavis@pattan.net)) for Spanish versions.

- A **lesson plan** to promote acceptance of diversity and difference. We encourage your school district to participate in conversations and instruction with your students to create a sense of community for all.
- Additional resources to assist and support your staff as they move forward with the message of respect and understanding for differences, in all the children you educate.

Your leadership and guidance are essential components for the successful integration of these welcome packets within your school district. I appreciate your dedication to the educational initiatives of our commonwealth. Together we will continue to move Pennsylvania forward with its commitment to quality education for ALL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald L. Zahorchak".

Gerald L. Zahorchak, D.Ed.  
Secretary of Education