

## TALKING POINTS – SPECIAL EDUCATION

When you write your letter, make it personal. Include your own stories or experiences, and those of colleagues.

- Introduce yourself and explain what you teach. For those of you who have written to the State BOE regarding other regulatory changes, be sure and include that.
- Explain your concerns about the proposed changes to special education.
  - ✓ How will they impact you?
  - ✓ How will they impact your students? Our special education population faces many obstacles on a daily basis; describe your students' particular journeys. State board members might not be concerned about the way the regulations will affect you, but they do want to know what it will mean for students.
- How would serving as a case manager impact your classroom instruction time? What would it mean for the students in your class?
- What would it mean for a new student – with possible learning disabilities – to have to wait 90 days while the district completes the evaluation process? What would it mean for you and the other students in your class?
- Describe what a class-size waiver could possibly look like in your class? Do you have what you would need to accommodate more students? Would your students have the optimal learning environment?
- Thank state board members for considering your views. Feel free to invite them to continue the conversation by including your name, phone number or home email as you close your letter. Many of them want more information.
- Proof your letter for spelling and clarification.

***REMEMBER: You are a professional! You have the right and the obligation to stand  
up for your profession!***