



*National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.*

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May 18, 2016

Rebecca Nipper  
Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Bldg. 66, Room 1540  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Ms. Nipper:

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule put forth by the Food and Drug Administration to ban electrical stimulation devices used to treat aggressive or self-injurious behavior.

NASDSE is the national nonprofit organization that represents the state directors of special education, the IDEA Part B data managers and the IDEA 619 coordinators in the states, the District of Columbia, the federal territories, the Freely Associated States and the Department of Defense Education Agency.

NASDSE has been an outspoken advocate for severely restricting the use of seclusion and restraints in schools as a means of addressing behavioral issues. Electrical stimulation devices represent an even more aggressive and unwarranted use of force on students. We know that other approaches, such as positive behavioral interventions and supports can be equally or even more effective in addressing student behavior. NASDSE therefore applauds the steps taken in the proposed rule that would ban electrical stimulation devices from being used in all schools, whether public or private.

We suggest that in implementing this rule that the FDA also ban the use of tasers – either by school personnel or police -- in schools. Tasers are simply another form of electrical stimulation used to treat aggressive behavior and as such, has no place in our nation's schools. We urge the FDA to include this ban in the final rule.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed regulation. Please feel free to contact NASDSE's Director of Government Relations, Nancy Reder at [nancy.reder@nasdse.org](mailto:nancy.reder@nasdse.org) if you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

*Theron (Bill) East, Jr.*

Theron (Bill) East, Jr., Ed.D.  
Executive Director