From:

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Sent:

Friday, October 02, 2009 11:20 AM

To:

IRRC

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Subject:

Please Vote NO on Keystone Exams.

I am writing you to request that you vote NO on the Final-Form Regulations for the Keystone Examinations. Both houses of the General Assembly, on a bi-partisan basis, have over-whelming support not to fund the Keystone Exams. Funding of the Keystone Exams will result in mandates that will have to be funded locally through increased property and wage taxes. As a minimum, funding will be required for new text books, personnel training, remedial classes and tutors.

Cookie cutter or one size fits all curriculum will not succeed due to local variables. I would like to point out that Allegheny County has 6 school districts on the Newsweek list of the top 1500 Districts. These are North Hills, North Allegheny, Pine-Richland, Quaker Valley, Mt. Lebanon and Upper St. Clair.

This achievement is the result of locally developed rigorous curriculum that is tailored to meet unique administrative, faculty, demographic and economic considerations. I do not believe a testing company in Minnesota can possibly develop curriculum and a testing program that will succeed when every District is faced with these unique and diverse considerations.

I fear that Cookie Cutter standardize curriculum and testing will result in the dumbing down the curriculum in the outperforming Districts and these performing significantly above the State average.

Best Regards,

Lou Nudi

Director, North Hills School District

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