

#2696

RECEIVED

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED
HIGH SCHOOL KEYSTONE EXAMS**

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2009

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

September 22, 2009

WHEREAS, the Boyertown Area School District is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, students who have passed the local proficiency assessments and evaluations and have historically experienced placement and success in college, could be denied the opportunity to attend even after offers of admission have been granted; and

WHEREAS, in the Boyertown Area School District, students who have not scored proficient on the PSSA have shown understanding of state standards through a variety of other assessments; and

WHEREAS, the PSSAs and local assessments already provide districts with information about students in need of remediation, and another layer of testing will only confirm what is already known; and

WHEREAS, the State, without regulatory change, can extend technical and financial assistance to districts already known to be struggling; and

WHEREAS, verification of the validity of these alternative assessments would be required every six years and would be costly to the school district and administration in both time and money, giving districts no choice but to "voluntarily" use the Keystone Exams rather than incur the financial burden associated with the validation process; and

WHEREAS, the monies required by the districts for verification of the validity of alternative assessments would require expenditures that would be better spent in classrooms; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams will not measure 21st century skills employers are seeking and will take away instructional time that should be used for developing skills sets in the areas of leadership, collaboration, creativity and technology; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams will have continuing economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness; and

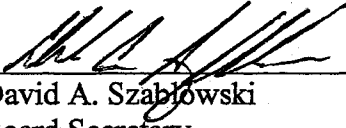
WHEREAS, the State, having already identified the best practices related to local proficiency assessments, can share these methods with all districts without the need to add Keystone Exams and related expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Boyertown Area School District opposes the State Board of Education proposals to enact Keystone Exams and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, legislators, including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.


APPROVED this 22nd day of September, 2009.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE
BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Attest:



David A. Szablowski
Board Secretary

By:


Robert J. Haas
Board President

CERTIFICATION

I, David A. Szablowski , hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Board of School Directors of the Boyertown Area School District, and the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of School Directors at a duly advertised meeting held on September 22, 2009, at which time a quorum was present, the Resolution being approved by a vote of 9 to 0 on the 22 day of SEPTEMBER, 2009.



David A. Szablowski
Board Secretary

