

# East Side Elementary School

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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March 11, 2008

Dear Dr. Zahorchak:

We support the State Board of Education's positive steps toward ensuring the readiness of Pennsylvania's high school graduates by giving support and approval to regulations that would bolster our graduation standards.

The board's unanimous vote will establish state graduation requirements, starting with the graduating class of 2014, to ensure students demonstrate proficiency in the core academic areas of math, science, English, and social studies. This proposal gives districts a menu of ways to ensure their students are academically prepared before receiving a diploma. These options include:

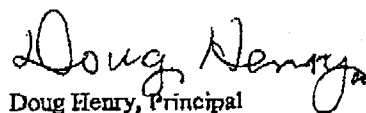
- Passing the new Graduation Competency Assessments.
- Passing the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.
- Passing an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate test.
- Passing a local assessment that independent of evaluators certifies equivalent to Graduation Competency Assessments.

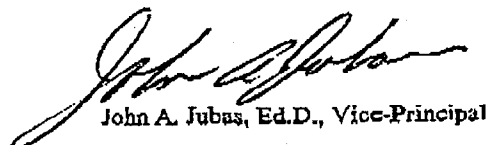
We support the goal behind these new graduation requirements and feel that the diploma will be meaningful, and have substantial value. Graduates need the assurance that they have what they need to succeed.

Clearly, the current patchwork system for setting high school graduation requirements is not serving our young people. These new graduation standards have the backing of an array of business leaders, education leaders and community stakeholders. The Governor's Commission on College and Career Success- a group of leaders in various fields, public and private- unanimously called for more rigorous graduation standards as a way for Pennsylvania to ensure all our students leave high school prepared for higher education or the knowledge-based workforce.

We thank you for your ongoing service to public education, and your commitment to our children.

Sincerely,

  
Doug Henry, Principal

  
John A. Jubas, Ed.D., Vice-Principal

*Support, Grow and Succeed.*