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The Greater Johnstown School District

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June 10, 2008

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

Dr. Gerald L. Zahorchak
Secretary of Education
PA Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Dr. Zahorchak:

The Governor's Commission on College and Career Success completed has determined what Pennsylvania's high school graduates need to succeed. Upon completion, the Commission calls for Pennsylvania to set statewide high school graduation requirements in English, mathematics, science and social studies to ensure the success of all graduating students are prepared for college and career expectations.

Ensuring the success of all of our students is a goal that we have for our students in the Greater Johnstown School District. We want to ensure that a diploma from the Greater Johnstown School District has meaningful value. We want to reassure our students, their parents, and the community that they have the substance to succeed once commencing on to their next phases of life.

In completing a set of standardized assessments, such as the Graduation Competency Assessments, we can ensure others that the diplomas given to our graduates have similar value to other graduates across the Commonwealth. Developing more rigorous graduation standards and assessments are a way for Pennsylvania to ensure that all of our students leaving high school are prepared for higher education or the knowledge-based workforce.

A diploma from Greater Johnstown High School must ensure that each of our students is equipped with the core skills that institutions of higher education find necessary and employers find meaningful. This diploma should indicate that our District has fulfilled its obligation in providing a similar, successful curriculum just like those in other districts across Pennsylvania.

The real world does not care what high school our students attended, it cares that they have the skills to succeed. We must ensure that these common-sense standards are established for all of our children. We must make sure that every high school graduate is ready for college and careers.

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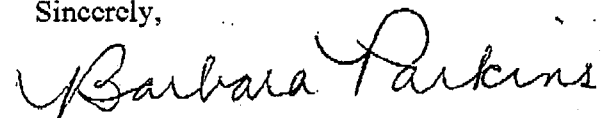
Instruction and Learning should always be measured or assessed. If the required standards are not being taught or learned, it will become evident during the assessment. It is then that the professionals must accommodate the needs of the learner in bringing about proficiency in that subject matter. This is a necessity for our students to compete across our Commonwealth, the country, and the globe, in the future, for their futures.

The Greater Johnstown School District and I are excited to join with Pennsylvania and in joining the 26 other states that already have high school graduation testing requirements in place or are in the process of implementing them. We are honored to serve in the capacity of public education, and we are committed to the children and the community we serve.

Enclosed are letters of support from District administrative and professional staff for review by the State Board of Education.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Parkins".

Barbara Parkins
Superintendent of Schools

BP/dc

Enclosures