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Resolution in Opposition of High School Graduation Competency Assessments By
the Board of School Directors of the West Perry School District PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to require students to pass a series of standardized Graduations Competency Assessments (GCA) in order to receive a diploma and such an act would require the amendment of Chapter 4 of Pa Code Title 22.

WHEREAS, there are no provisions within the proposed GCA requirement to differentiate between secondary students pursuing different paths of instruction, students participating in individualized education programs, or those participating in an English as a Second Language (ESL) programs.

WHEREAS, the proposed GCA would test students' achievement at a single moment and not throughout the course of their education and would therefore be less accurate, and therefore less useful, than the constant evaluation already in use by teachers within the West Perry School District, and that numerous studies have concluded that standardized testing should not be used as sole basis in major decision making regarding students.


WHEREAS, no cost analysis of implementing the GCA has been produced, nor does the proposal include additional funds to offset the District's costs to revise curriculum, change professional and support staffing, administer and validate additional testing, nor any other cost which could be reasonably amassed by the District in complying with this proposal.

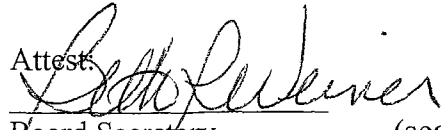
WHEREAS, the state Legislature has yet to produce a Budget which seriously addresses the \$4.4 Billion Dollar shortfall projected within the State Board's own costing-out study, nor has it addressed the inequity in the distribution of State funds to school districts across the State.

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors, having been properly elected to represent the interests of the citizens of the West Perry School District is empowered under Chapter 4 of Title 22 to use rigorous local assessments to determine that State Academic Standards are being met.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the West Perry School District opposes the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments as proposed by the State Board of Education and urges the State Board to review the above concerns as well as those of many other Districts with the Commonwealth. By adopting this resolution the District shall make known its concerns by distribution to the State Board of Education, local legislators, and members of the House Education Committee.

Adopted this 30th day of June, 2008

Signed: 
Board President

Attest: 
Board Secretary (seal)

2606 Shermans Valley Road
ELLIOTTSBURG, PA 17024-9706

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