

2696

From: Nehnevajsa, Pam [nehnevajsa@HT-SD.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2009 2:41 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: 'shaunacpa@comcast.net'
Subject: Resolution from the Hampton Township School District
Attachments: HTSDGCAResolution.pdf

Attached is a copy of the Resolution Opposing Proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments by the Hampton Township School District, Board of School Directors, from March 12, 2008.

Pamela Nehnevajsa
Superintendent's Secretary
Hampton Township School District
4591 School Drive
Allison Park, PA 15101
Phone: 412-492-6302 * Fax: 412-487-6898
www.ht-sd.org

Handwritten notes and markings on the right side of the page, including a vertical list of numbers (3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3, 3) and some illegible scribbles.

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**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS
BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE
HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has approved a proposal to revise the current high school graduation requirements under the Chapter 4 regulations to require students to pass a series of standardized high stakes Graduation Competency Assessments in order to get a diploma; and

WHEREAS the new requirements and exams will be the same for all students, whether they are taking college prep or vocational courses, are English language learners or participating in individualized program, and all students effectively will be required to take the same courses in order to pass this new battery of state tests; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 currently allows districts to use either the PSSA *or* rigorous local assessments for their students to demonstrate proficiency of the state academic standards; and it is misleading and incorrect to make the assumption that because students demonstrate their achievements on local assessments rather than the PSSA that there is a disconnect between proficiency and graduation; and

WHEREAS, although the GCA proposal permits schools to use a local assessment option, it establishes numerous limitations, including the elimination of the ability to use various assessment strategies now available to local entities and requires local tests to be closely modeled to the GCAs' and

WHEREAS decades of research shows many reasons why standardized pencil and paper test scores should never be the determining factor in making major decisions about students, and that a diploma should be granted based on the coursework, tests and quizzes, presentations, projects and papers throughout the student's career; and


WHEREAS, the State board of Education has not prepared a cost analysis or fiscal note, even though this will create a large financial impact on state and local budgets, and the State Board's own costing-out study did not include the costs. Given the state's funding shortfall and the Act 1 limitations on tax increases, school districts have limited ability to fund these potential new costs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Hampton Township School District opposes the **State Board of Education's proposal to enact Graduation Competency Assessments** and any other regulation or legislation that usurps the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned a high school diploma. This resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, state legislators including local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

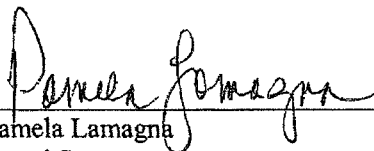
Adopted this 12th day of March, 2008.

Signed,

Attest:



Harold P. Sarver, Ed.D.
School Board President



Pamela Lamagna
Board Secretary (seal)