

2196

PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Educating For Life"

Administration Center
1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119

www.parklandsd.org

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

610-351-5500 Fax: 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerel

Board Member

Parkland School Board

A & Boli



"Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence."

Administrative Center

1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119 www.parklandsd.org LOUISE E. DONOHUE, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools 610-351-5500

RICHARD T. SNISCAK

Assistant Superintendent 610-351-5505

FAX 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Sniscak Assistant Superintendent



"Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence."

Administrative Center

1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119 www.parklandsd.org LOUISE E. DONOHUE, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools 610-351-5500

RICHARD T. SNISCAK

Assistant Superintendent 610-351-5505

FAX 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

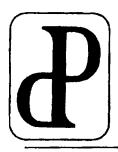
Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Louise E. Donohue, Ed.D.

Superintendent



"Educating For Life"

Administration Center

1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119

www.parklandsd.org

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

610-351-5500 Fax: 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

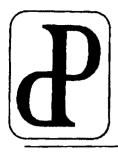
Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Board Member Parkland School Board

Roberta Tuarcus



"Educating For Life"

Administration Center
1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119

www.parklandsd.org

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

610-351-5500 Fax: 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

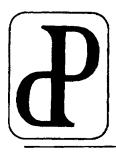
It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

∕Sincere/

Board Member
Parkland School Board



"Educating For Life"

Administration Center
1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119

www.parklandsd.org

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

610-351-5500 Fax: 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Parkland School Board



"Educating For Life"

Administration Center
1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119

www.parklandsd.org

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

610-351-5500 Fax: 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely.

Board Member

Parkland School Board

Zelreca Orloski



"Educating For Success, Inspiring Excellence."

Administrative Center

1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119 www.parklandsd.org LOUISE E. DONOHUE, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent of Schools 610-351-5500

RICHARD T. SNISCAK

Assistant Superintendent 610-351-5505

FAX 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Howard S. Lessel

Principal, Parkland High School

Nowall Senel



"Educating For Life"
Administration Center
1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119
www.parklandsd.org

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

610-351-5500 Fax: 610-351-5508

August 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the current proposed final form Chapter 4 regulations to require Keystone Exams as end of course/graduation requirements for students.

This plan will unfairly distort the "meaning" of the Grade Point Average by factoring the value of one standardized test score to count for 1/3 of a student's grade.

It is unfair that students scoring below basic on a Keystone Exam or on a module get NO credit for what they do know, but instead will be given a 0% for 1/3 of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test.

Replacing our rigorous mid-terms and finals with Keystone Exams will serve to narrow the curriculum in our high school. Furthermore, it is not educationally in the best interest of students to administer the same Keystone Exam to students in General Biology, Accelerated Biology, and Honors Biology, replacing the assessments that have been designed to reflect the rigor of those various courses. The weight of 1/3 and the 0% floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as 1/3 of their grade with no chance to increase that score, while other students who may score slightly less than Proficient will have another opportunity to raise 1/3 of their grade by re-taking the exam.

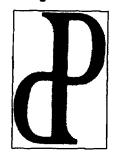
Not all students in Pennsylvania have access to the same resources in the classroom, and those resources are reflected in the facilities, the classroom materials, and in the quality of the teachers. It is not fair to withhold their diplomas by measuring them all by the same measuring stick.

Please do not create a new testing program with no basis in research as other worthwhile educational programs are being cut in order to deal with the current economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Board Member Parkland School Board

ne R. Bartlett



2194

PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Educating For Life"

Administration Center

1210 Springhouse Road, Allentown, PA 18104-2119 www.parklandsd.org LOUISE E. DONOHUE, Ed.D.
Superintendent
610 351-5500
Email donohuel@parklandsd.org
RICHARD T. SNISCAK
Assistant Superintendent
610 351-5505
Email sniscakt@parklandsd.org
FAX 610 351-5508

TO:	IRRC		FROM:	Roberta M. Marcus	
			Board Member, Legislative Representative		
			FAX #:	Parkland School District (610) 351-5508	
FAX:	717 783-2664		Telephone #:	(610) 351-5505	_
Date:	8/19/09		Administration Center Information No. of Pages Being Faxed:		on 10
This it	em is being trans	smitted as checked For approval	below:] For review and comment	:
	[]	For your use	į :	For your records	<i>i</i> 3
	[]	As requested		•	٠,
COMM	ENTS: Please s	ee the attached lette	ers with regard to	Keystone Exams.	- - - -

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE

The documents accompanying this telecopier transmission contain information that is confidential and/or legally privileged. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named on this transmission sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this telecopied information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please notify us by telephone immediately so that we can arrange for the return of the original documents to us at no cost to you Thank you.

We Are An Equal Rights and Equal Opportunity School District