
From: Miller, Sarah E.
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 8:50 AM
To: Schalles, Scott R.; Totino, Michaele; Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Cooper, Kathy; Gelnett, Wanda B.
Subject: FW: IRRC Website - New Message

From: Independent Regulatory Review Commission [mailto:No-Reply@irrc.state.pa.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2009 12:16 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message

2696



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Moira

Last Name: Singer

Company:

Email: moira.singer@gmail.com

Subject: Keystone Exams

Message:

We are completely opposed to the development, approval, funding and implementation of the Keystone Exams. The Keystone Exams are a waste of time and money. They penalize students, duplicate existing testing (PSSAs) and will force more teachers to teach to the tests. We have a system in place through the PSSAs which provides the same information and requirements for proficiency of basic skills. PA districts are already required to provide a state-determined basic curriculum and test students' proficiency prior to issuing graduate certificates. Consequently, the Keystone Exams are duplicative and highly wasteful of time and money. Further, the exams are weighted too heavily and disproportionately to a student's final grade. To have the Keystone Exams be valued at 1/3 of a student's grade is unfair and unbalanced. This completely minimizes the effort students and teachers make throughout the designated courses and further guarantees that true education will suffer as curriculums are condensed to merely cover the Keystone Exam test materials. Given the State's inability to pass a balanced budget, this is absolutely not the time to be adding high-cost programs that have little-to-no proven merit. As such, we urge all those in a position to determine the status of the Keystone Exams to vote it down and cease any further discussion or debate. Use what is already in place and/or improve upon the existing system rather than add an additional and costly one on top.