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CHIP BURKE
903 NOTRE DAME PLACE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15215

RECEIVED

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ADMITTED TO THE STATE

August 27, 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 one-third 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 zero percent for one-third of their grade, rather than the score they have earned on the test. The weight of one-third and the zero percent floor will unfairly affect students competing for acceptance into colleges and for scholarships.

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.


It is unfair that students who score Proficient will have that score count as one-third 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 one-third 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Burke, Jr., President
Fox Chapel Area School Board of Directors

CRBJ:tl

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Fax Transmittal

THE GRABLE FOUNDATION
650 Smithfield Street, Suite 240
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412.471.4550 Fax: 412.471.2267

DATE: August 27, 2009

TO:
Name: REGULATORY REVIEW COMMITTEE
Organization: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: 1-717-783-2664

FROM:
Chip Burke
Chairman
Phone Extension: 102
chip@grable.org

SUBJECT: KEYSTONE EXAMS

MESSAGE:

Total Pages (including Cover Sheet): 2

Please contact Teresa Serrao at extension 102 with any questions regarding this fax.