

# 2696

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**From:** Kaufman, Kim  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 03, 2009 11:13 AM  
**To:** Gelnett, Wanda B.; Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Schalles, Scott R.; Totino, Michaele  
**Subject:** FW: Keystone Resolution  
**Attachments:** KEYSTONE RESOLUTION.pdf

FYI

**From:** Carolyn Boice [mailto:cboice@pinerichland.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 03, 2009 11:12 AM  
**To:** Kaufman, Kim; Johnson, Leslie A. Lewis  
**Cc:** Aafke Loney; Dennis Sundo; Gary Deschamps; Kevin Nigh; Rich Herko; Robert Necciai; Scott Stedeford; Steve Hawbaker; Therese Dawson; Mary Bucci  
**Subject:** Keystone Resolution

Dear IRRC members,

On behalf of the Pine-Richland School Board of Directors, please see the attached unanimous Resolution opposing implementation of Keystone Exams.

Thank you.

--  
Carolyn A. Boice  
School Board/Superintendent Secretary  
Pine-Richland School District  
702 Warrendale Road  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
Phone: (724) 625-7773 ext. 6100  
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REC'D  
SEP 3 2009  
PINE RICHLAND

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# 2696

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE  
PINE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED KEYSTONE EXAMS

In February 2008, the School Board of Directors of Pine Richland School District in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania adopted a resolution in opposition to the proposed mandatory Graduation Competency Exams.

There exists no proven data to support high school exit exams as being effective in promoting higher achievement or success in college or the workplace. As a learning community, we place a high priority on personalized rigorous learning that ensures the success of all learners. The Pine Richland Board of Directors maintains opposition to high stakes high school exit exams that would impose upon local control of the high standards maintained for our students.

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania General Assembly under Act 61 of 2008 placed a one year moratorium on the State Board of Education prohibiting further development of Graduation Competency Exams. Despite this, the Pennsylvania Department of Education moved forward to revise and rename the exams, the Keystone Exams.

WHEREAS, The Keystone Exams were a result of an agreement between the Pennsylvania School Board Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Education despite disagreement among its membership, in opposition to moving forward with the development of such exams; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Education moved forward to enter into an agreement with a corporation without the approval of the House or Senate which would cost PA taxpayers a minimum of \$210 million over a 7 year period placing an additional tax burden on Pennsylvania taxpayers in a time of financial deficit for the state; and

WHEREAS, the Pine Richland School District administers advanced curriculum and testing that ensures successful graduation competency utilizing local assessment methods that far exceed standard proficiency measures, which afford our students successful entrance to college and the workplace without need for the Keystone or any other high stakes exit exam; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) tests provide data necessary to individualize and remediate proficiency for all school districts across Pennsylvania based on reported Annual Yearly Progress, making the need for further standardized testing unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer money and valuable instructional time which is not in the best interests of students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pine Richland School District opposes the proposed Keystone Exams and any other high stakes graduation exit exam that undermines local control and assessment of graduation competency for students. We support legislation that would require the School Code to be amended in such a way so as to prohibit development, requirements or expenditures for any optional or mandatory high school exit exams unless voted on by the General Assembly of the State Senate and House of Representatives.

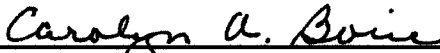
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be shared with the State Board of Education, the Department of Education, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, state legislators, including legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees and any others that this board directs; and

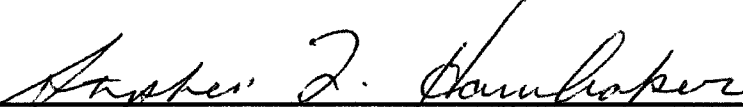
FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Pine Richland School district hereby directs the Superintendent and Board President to communicate this resolution to other school districts within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to members of our community, encouraging other school boards and individuals to take similar action on the issue.

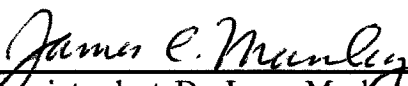
Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

ATTEST:

PINE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

  
Board Secretary, Carolyn A. Boice

  
Board President, Stephen Hawbaker

  
Superintendent, Dr. James Manley