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From: Hutchinson, Cynthia [chutchinson@mwsd.cc]
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 5:17 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am generally in favor of the Keystone exams as a replacement for the 11th grade PSSA test. I am gravely concerned, however, that the individual content exams are being proposed to weigh so heavily in a student's final grade. Typically, final exams count for 20% of the student's final grade, averaged in with each of the four marking period grades. A justifiable criticism of the PSSA is its status as a "high stakes" test given it is the sole measure of a student's knowledge and skills in a tested content area. The high weighting (33%) as proposed makes the Keystone exams also "high stakes."

Please review the weighting of the exam in the final grade average and consider an adjustment.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,
Cynthia L. Hutchinson

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