



Radnor Township School District

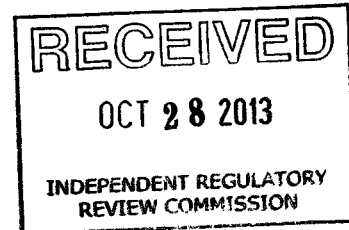
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135 S. Wayne Avenue
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610.688.8100
www.rtsd.org

Invest in Excellence

October 23, 2013

Mr. David Sumner
333 Market Street
14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



RE: Resolution Opposing High School Graduation Exam

Dear Mr. Sumner:

Enclosed please find a Resolution by the Board of Directors of Radnor Township School District requesting the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) to remove language requiring the unfunded mandate of passing Keystone graduation exams from the Pennsylvania School Code Chapter 4 revisions. We ask your support in petitioning the IRRC.

This Resolution was adopted at the October 22, 2013 Regular Public Board Meeting.

Questions regarding the contents of the resolution should be sent to Michael Petitti, Communications Coordinator, 610-688-8100 ext. 6119, michael.petitti@rtsd.org.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kelly
Superintendent of Schools

Enclosure

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM

Adopted by the Board of School Directors
Radnor Township School District on October 22, 2013

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District is committed to preparing all students for success in college and the workplace by providing a challenging and rich curriculum that focuses on developing in students a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, some Radnor Township School District students have consistently shown understanding of state standards through a variety of assessments including course exams, portfolios, oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, as well as other nationally-recognized exams, demonstrating that the rigors of the curriculum more than satisfy state standards, but those students have not scored proficient on one or more Keystone Exams; and

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District recognizes the importance of the PA Common Core and its related assessments and will use the Keystone and local assessments to provide the District with information about students in need of remediation; and

WHEREAS, basing important decisions on limited and imperfect information can harm students, teachers, and communities; and increasing student stress and further diminishing instructional time; and

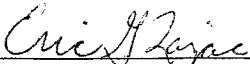
WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams graduation requirement will cause an increase in remediation courses which will have economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness and represent an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams graduation requirement will necessitate remediation courses which will reduce a student's ability to select electives *to empower them to discover and pursue their individual passions with knowledge, confidence, and caring to shape the future* as outlined in our Board-approved Mission Statement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District OPPOSES the State Board of Education approved final-form revisions to Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessment) and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. The District seeks support from other school boards, local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees in petitioning the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to bifurcate approval of Chapter 4, approving language pursuant to PA Common Core and removing language requiring the unfunded mandate of passing graduation exams.

This Resolution will be presented to the Pennsylvania School Board Association for dissemination to Commonwealth School Districts, Intermediate Units, local legislators, members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Attest:



Eric G. Zajac, School Board President

10-22-13
Date