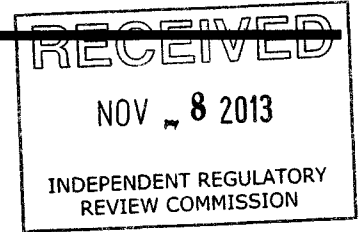


Cooper, Kathy

2976



From: Marla Doddo <marladoddo@lswib.org>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 8:22 AM
To: IRRC
Cc: Patti Lenahan; Carmen Kahiu ; Joseph Pierangali
Subject: Common Core-Letter of Support
Attachments: YC-LSWIB Letter of Support-11-08-2013.pdf

Please find attached a letter of support to adopt the Pennsylvania Core Standards. This support comes from the Youth Council of the Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

If you have any questions please contact me by telephone or email.

Thank you!

Marla
Marla Doddo
Youth Services Manager/EO Officer

Luzerne Schuylkill Workforce Investment Board, Inc.
22 East Union Street | Suite 115 | Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
570.822.1101, ext. 296 | Fax: 570.970.4050
www.lswib.org

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

"Please be aware that e-mail communication can be intercepted in transmission or misdirected. Please do not send any protected Personally Identifiable Information (PII) by telephone, fax, or mail. The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential. If you are NOT the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately."

Confidentiality Notice | This email is confidential, intended only for the named recipient(s), and may contain information that is privileged or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is prohibited. If you received this message in error, or are not the named recipient, please notify the sender at the email address above and delete this email from your computer. Thank you



November 5, 2013

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III
Chairman, Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)
333 Market Street, 14th floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Email: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Re: Final-Form Regulations #6-326 – Academic Standards and Assessments

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

I am writing to express my strong support for the final-form regulation #6-326 (Academic Standards and Assessments) that adopts the Pennsylvania Core Standards (which were developed by Pennsylvania teachers) and aligned assessments, including Keystone Exams. These reforms will help ensure the commonwealth's students graduate from high school ready for the rigors of postsecondary education and the 21st century global workforce.

As a workforce professional, I see every day that jobs of the new economy require higher levels of academic skills than ever before. If Pennsylvania is going to compete in this economy, it's critically important that our students graduate from high school with the strong academic foundation necessary to successfully go on to postsecondary education or workforce training programs – regardless of which high school they attended.

Pennsylvania needs a vibrant education system that produces students with the skills to be successful, to help employers succeed and grow, and to attract new employers and investments to our state. Today however, employers have no real assurance that a high school graduate has the required basic skills to be successful in an entry-level job or to advance within a career.

This regulation will adopt rigorous, internationally benchmarked standards in English and math and provide students a variety of assessment tools to demonstrate their proficiency, including Keystone Exams, project-based assessments, Advance Placement and International Baccalaureate Exams, and independently-validated local assessments. The regulation also rightfully includes important safeguards and supports for students – including supplemental instructions and accommodations for disabled students and English language learners.

If adopted, the final-form regulation will make some common-sense changes to Pennsylvania's current regulation. It would replace the national Common Core Standards with the Pennsylvania Core Standards. It would also reduce the number of Keystone Exams by half (from ten to five) thus cutting testing time for students and reducing supplemental instruction requirements for school districts. The regulation also eliminates the senior culminating project allowing those resources to be reallocated to provide supplemental instruction and administer project-based assessments to students.

I strongly support these important changes to Pennsylvania's academic standards and aligned assessments, including Keystone Exams, and urge IRRC to approve them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Kahiu".

Carmen Kahiu, Chair
Youth Council