

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: kpennypacker@netzero.com
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 2:50 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Reject Common Core

RECEIVED

NOV 8 2013

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Please reject Common Core education. This is communism and is training children in the agenda of a treasonous enemy. Reject it. You will be saving countless children from indoctrination. Thank you.

Kelly Pennypacker

Do THIS before eating carbs (every time)

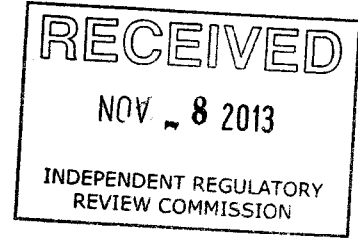
1 EASY tip to increase fat-burning, lower blood sugar & decrease fat storage

<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3231/527bef0f4eb8d6f0f5f12st03duc>

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Jenn Rosenau <jennrosenau1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:29 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: REJECT CHAPTER 4 REGULATIONS



Mr. Sumner,

I urge you to say not to the Proposed Keystones Graduation Exams. Please vote NO on the Final-Form Chapter 4 regulations.

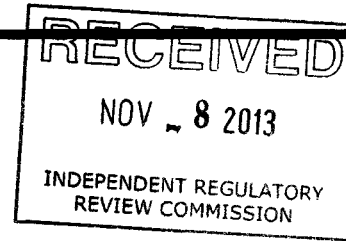
I have 3 highly successful students in the public school system who DO NOT need to be tested further. The schools need more learning for all of our students to be successful, not more teaching to the tests.

Thank you,
Jennifer Rosenau

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Tom <optometo@windstream.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:53 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Common Core Curriculum



Let's get to it: Common Core is a product of the UN and dictates what children will learn. It's refer to as a womb to tomb program that will require exposure to Marxist

propaganda. It will cost states millions of dollars and require retraining of teachers. (Total control by the State/UN of all education)

Home Schooling, as well as private schooling will be ruined. Why? Children will not be able to graduate without learning the Common Core Curriculum.

Stalin would be proud. A tenant of the Marxists' is total control of education. Look no further than our college.

States, as well as parents and school boards, will have very little control of what children learn .

Desired outcome is total allegiance to the state.

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: RYockin@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:39 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Common Core's Graduation Exam

RECEIVED

NOV 8 2013

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

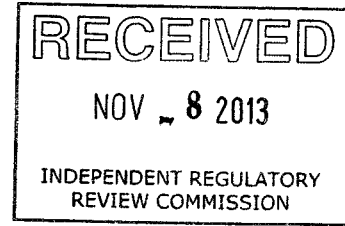
A new cover up for the incompetence and failure of some of the teachers, the curriculum and administrative policies. Since you can't solve the problem, we're now saying, "blame the students", put the onus on them. Let's face it, we have a failed system that doesn't do the job of teaching, rather stressing indoctrination to some extreme ideology. What the heck ever happened to the three R's as the foundation of basic education?

I am totally against Common Core and its standardized graduation exam.

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Annissa Bollin <annissa@sirsales.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:04 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: RE: Keystones



Dear Sir,

In regards to the Keystones, wouldn't it make logical sense to spend the non-existent funds on the *actual education* of our children than on testing that simply doesn't make any sense? I mean if we're going to write a rubber check, at least make it out directly to the kids so they can have the tools to have the education that these tests were supposed to measure. You can't ask a man to build a robot and only allow him a hammer and a nail.

Schools don't have money to buy books, keep teacher/student ratios reasonable, buy musical instruments, etc. yet we're going to spend how much on testing? Am I the only one without a screw loose?

Let's stop the circus and NOT let its malignancy flow through the PA education system. This country is killing itself from within from its lunacy (i.e., passing bills and laws without anyone thinking things through or even reading them). I'm starting to wonder if anyone is actually capable of completing thought processes anymore.

I find the irony overwhelming. What an awesome example being set (by so-called educated adults that are supposed to know better) for the children that would be victims of this experiment.

I am pleading that the proposed Chapter 4 regulations be rejected and sent back for a "re-do". I don't believe testing is the answer to the current state of education.

A final thought...if I passed on roughly drafted ideas as my final product at my job, I'd be canned.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts in layman's terms,

Annissa Bollin
Red Lion, PA

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: almabret@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:26 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



To: IRRC Executive Director - David Sumner,

I find it unnerving that The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education are recommending a single, one time test be administered to students to determine whether or not said students will graduate from high school.

What has happened to creating a well rounded individual that can participate productively in society? A student that has been productive throughout their high school years but may not move out to the world at large because they didn't pass a test created by non-educators.

Educators know that a single test will not, I repeat, will not determine the value of a student's ability to move to the next stage of their life be it the work force, the military, the trades, or a college education.

It is just as abhorrent to think that this would become a mandate to already financially strapped school districts and smacks of a situation that has not been thoroughly thought through.

How can this even be considered on both the student's and the school district's front as a viable solution?

Whatever you do, do not consider this proposed test. The repercussions are astounding.

I am a retired teacher who taught in the public schools of Pennsylvania for thirty-two years. I am alarmed at the attacks on my beloved profession.

Sincerely,

Alma W. Brethauer
319 Horseshoe Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335

almabret@aol.com

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Marian Stevens <mstevens12@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:40 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Examinations



Dear Mr. Sumner:

I am very concerned about the imposition of these exams on Pennsylvania's high school students. There are too many school districts which are struggling, and they are not going to be able to prepare their students. What kind of a start in life would their students get if 50% or more of them failed the tests? The plan needs to be implemented far more slowly—over a ten-year period, say—with help being given to school districts with high failure rate. If the playing field were leveled, and students given the opportunity to master the subjects, and then the tests were introduced as non-binding over a period of years, with gradual improvement throughout the state, then and only then can I see the value of these exams as requirements for high-school diploma.

Please re-think this misguided proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Stevens
Retired Director,
Tredyffrin Public Library

610 So Warren Ave.
Malvern, PA 19355

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: almabret@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 3:26 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



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How can this even be considered on both the student's and the school district's front as a viable solution?

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Sincerely,

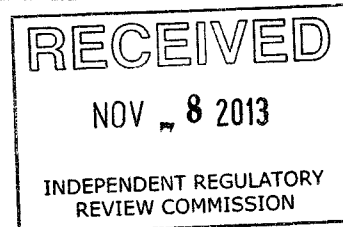
Alma W. Brethauer
319 Horseshoe Lane
Downingtown, PA 19335

almabret@aol.com

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Nancy Hratko <hratko@ptd.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:26 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



Dear Mr. Sumner:

Education is very important to a child's development, but grades and exams are not the only way of measuring that development. The Keystone Graduation Exams put the emphasis of education in the wrong place. What a terrible stigma it puts on a student with a particular weakness. If Pennsylvania feels we need this measure because we are graduating inadequate students, our concern should be directed at improvements that insure students are working at their full potential from K-12. However, no matter how excellent our teaching methods are, some students will not succeed in all subject areas. Do we really want to prevent or impede those students from going on to college and pursuing their strengths?

I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exams and encourage you to reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations.

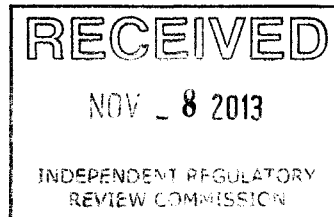
Sincerely,

Nancy Hratko
28 West High Street
Nazareth, PA 18064

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Gary Stevenson <garys@modernmachinerycompany.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:26 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Concerns



We are very concerned that Pennsylvania is trying to institute Common Core in our school district. We are paying local school tax and want our schools controlled locally, not by the state or even worse the federal government. Common Core is just another attempt by Obama to brain wash our children into believing Socialism is what's best for America!! We have had enough of the government telling us what is best! It seems that the government has forgotten that you answer to us! We have had enough of all your failed programs, excessive spending, and flat out lies! We want our schools, our communities, our healthcare and our lives back!! Common Core is just another "Big Government" attempt at controlling what our children are taught.

Also, the Keystone Graduation Exams are another example of the state government throwing money down the drain. We have not been made aware of the total cost per district (Just like Obamacare I'm sure it's much higher than promised). The pilot program you ran last year failed miserably in Pennsylvania. Finally, we have not been made aware of what the test will consist of. I'm sure the test are slanted way to the left that way the teachers can justify teaching Socialism and Marxism to our children by saying that it's required to pass the State Exams.

Since the government and unions have taken over the educational system in America we have dropped from number three worldwide to number forty two!!! We have had enough!! If these programs are implemented into our local district we will enroll our child in a private school and encourage everyone we know to do the same.

Gary Stevenson
Mt. Lebanon PA

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Annissa Bollin <annissa@sirsales.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:04 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: RE: Keystones



Dear Sir,

In regards to the Keystones, wouldn't it make logical sense to spend the non-existent funds on the *actual education* of our children than on testing that simply doesn't make any sense? I mean if we're going to write a rubber check, at least make it out directly to the kids so they can have the tools to have the education that these tests were supposed to measure. You can't ask a man to build a robot and only allow him a hammer and a nail.

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Let's stop the circus and NOT let its malignancy flow through the PA education system. This country is killing itself from within from its lunacy (i.e., passing bills and laws without anyone thinking things through or even reading them). I'm starting to wonder if anyone is actually capable of completing thought processes anymore.

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A final thought...if I passed on roughly drafted ideas as my final product at my job, I'd be canned.

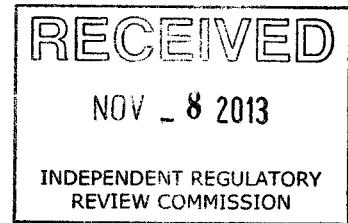
Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts in layman's terms,

Annissa Bollin
Red Lion, PA

Cooper, Kathy

2974

From: Leanne Powell <mlmpowell@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:27 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Opposition to the Keystone Graduation Exams



To David Sumner and Whom This May Concern:

While I applaud the assumed desire of those who are trying to institute graduation exams, I vehemently disagree with the timing and that the intended goal would actually be achieved.

These exams will NOT achieve the goal and they will instead hurt school districts, and students alike.

Our goal should NOT be to cookie cutter these youth - demanding that they learn only certain sets of knowledge, and define WHICH literature they must read and learn, as determined by the testing. We should not put the schools and students in bondage of this nature.

Ultimately we should find a means to educate to their gifts and talents. Additionally, while I have a can-do attitude, and largely believe that most children "can" do almost anything if given proper care, tools, and encouragement to repeat as needed and persevere, this testing, EVEN IF AFFORDABLE (- which it is not), will cause specific focus on certain lines of questions in the testing in order to achieve passing rates in school districts.

As any truly mature person comes to realize, not every child wants a college education, not every child is gifted to read and comprehend and expound on literature, or certain mathematics - or any given subject. Some students are gifted musicians and composers, or talented athletically or mechanically - and this testing would FORCE specific learning and ignore those students who are alternately gifted - in areas outside of this testing. PLEASE, I beg you to care about each person and instead find a way to support the individuals we are creating in our society. I am glad for example to know that some people have chosen to be the nurse and not the doctor (albeit appreciated); I am blessed to have had outstanding secretarial support, to enjoy the music of musicians and the artistry of artists and the fine skill of the mechanics who work on my car and home.

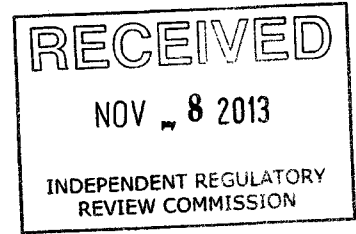
Please do NOT approve this misdirected and unfunded desire of a few and listen to the crowd's "no, thank-you!"

Sincerely,
Leanne Powell

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Kris Harker <krisirish4ever@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 4:53 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



T0: D Sumner

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania State Board of Education have proposed the Keystone Graduation Exams to the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission, which is set to vote on them on Nov. 21.

If approved, Pennsylvania would usher in new high-stakes tests in Algebra 1, biology and literature that students must pass in order to graduate, regardless of their grade point average. That means high school students beginning with current freshman (Class of 2017) will face the possibility of passing all their classes but failing a Keystone Exam and not getting a diploma.

If approved, local school districts will be saddled with a massive unfunded mandate. The Department of Education has no plan to pay for the implementation of the keystones, which are estimated to cost more than \$300 million. That means the buck will be passed to taxpayers in the form of unprecedented school property tax hikes.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and State Board of Education are combining the exams with new academic standards, and by doing so have made it impossible to reject one while supporting the other. The only way to stop the high-stakes exams – and this new unfunded mandate on local schools – is to have the IRRC reject the entire proposed Final-Form Chapter 4 regulations and send them back to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education for further review and changes.

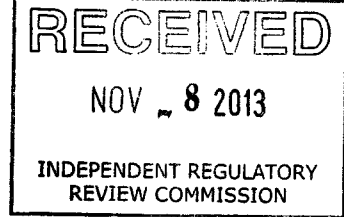
As a former teacher in PA I find this obsessive use of testing to be ridiculous and costly while really not proving anything other than can a student take a test. Real learning doesn't revolve around "the Test" and teaching for the test. It involves real life experiences and a variety of experiences for the students. Not every student is going to be a mathematician or biologist or a famous writer. We are truly short changing our students with so much emphasis on a test. Sad to say the private schools have it right because they address the whole student and provide many opportunities for students to achieve and succeed. If I were a parent today with school age children, I would have serious reservations about letting them attend a public school. Our public school system is in complete disarray and sadly it does not seem to be getting any better with foolish plans such as the graduation exam.

Sincerely,

Kristofer Harker
42 Black Oak Drive
Lancaster, PA 17602

2976
Cooper, Kathy

From: Andy Fleck <adfleck@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 7:53 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams



Good Evening Mr. Sumner,

I wanted to write to you to share my concerns and opposition regarding the implementation of the Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement. Though on the face value this appears to be a viable option to hold both the students and the teaching community accountable, it lacks the foundational premise of authentic assessment. Its implementation is short sighted in that it does not allow students with various learning styles and learning differences to demonstrate their understanding of the material being taught. I understand that we need to ensure that all children are afforded a strong, and equitable education and that if this is provided the students should be able to demonstrate competence, but this assessment does not allow for a true demonstration. If, for example, a student attends a technical high school and can demonstrate exceptional trade skills, and has mastered competences needed to be gainfully employed yet struggles with putting thought to paper, how can the state not allow this student to graduate based on his inability to pass one of these tests? This fictitious yet plausible student has met every other requirement and now must decide to either stay in school another year, therefore postponing the rest of his life, or take the test again and/or complete a project based assessment that will again not allow him to demonstrate his abilities. This is just one example of the unjust...unforeseen consequences of implementing a one size fits all test to a very diverse human population.

Yet another concern I have is the quick implementation of this exam as based on standards that the state can't seem to agree upon. How can the students and staff reach for goals if the goals keep changing?

Lastly, I really do not want any more of a tax burden placed on my family due to a mandate that has not been well thought out. The citizens of this country and state have been held hostage to the inconsiderate and partisan decisions being made by our legislators. Why should I (we) have to pay for their errors in thinking?

This decision can definitely cause more harm than good and has potential to be the BP oil rig failure of education due to the fact that every possible consequence has not being taken into consideration in the planning stage. I hope that you will take these concerns into consideration when making your final decision.

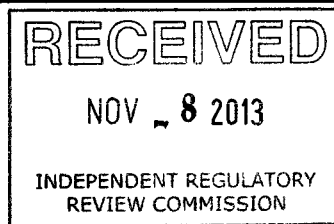
Thank you for your time.

Andy Fleck

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Anne Gayl <algayl@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 3:30 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: 8ReasonsAgainstKeystones.pdf
Attachments: 8ReasonsAgainstKeystones.pdf; ATT00001.txt



As a recently retired teacher, I have 30+ years experience in the PA public school system.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to vote AGAINST these tests!

Thank you,
Anne Gayl

<http://www.senatordinniman.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/8ReasonsAgainstKeystones.pdf>

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Scott Born <sborn47@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 7:24 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: I oppose Keystone State Graduation Exams



Dear Mr. Sumner -

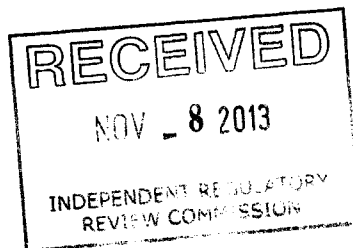
I am writing to tell you that I oppose Keystone State Graduation Exams. As is the case with No Child Left Behind, legislation like this causes curricula at strong schools to be compromised and puts unnecessary and unrealistic restrictions on poor schools.

Scott Born
412 School House Ln
Wayne, PA 19087-5310

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: MICHAEL FOGEL <childfamart@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 8:41 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams



Mr. Sumner,

I urge you to consider not making the keystone exams mandatory for graduation in the state of PA. My children are in the Lower Merion School District, which, as you know, is one of the best school districts in the country. To force these students to take yet another standardized test in order to graduate is truly ridiculous. My daughter is in all honors courses at Lower Merion High School and is an all A student. She has been an all A student since she started school! To think that her ability to graduate is linked to passing 3 standardized tests is preposterous! These teachers are so concerned with their passing these tests, that they are spending valuable class time teaching to these tests, when they should be allowing the kids to learn in the way that has been so successful for YEARS! I completely agree with Senator Dinniman's 8 reasons why there should be opposition against the Keystone Graduation Exams.

I realize that some school districts may need this extra incentive for teaching their students, but Lower Merion is not one of these school districts. They have been doing an outstanding job with these students for years! These kids have enough stress with what is asked of them on a daily basis -- they don't need the added stress of passing 3 standardized tests in order to graduate.

Thank you for your time!

-Lisa Fogel
45 Trent Rd.
Wynnewood, PA 19096

2976

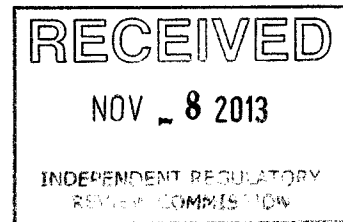
Cooper, Kathy

From: Pat Witt <patwitt@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 8:46 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: upcoming vote

I urge you to reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations with the Keystone Graduation Exams in the present form. Let's wait until we can get it right.

Thank you.

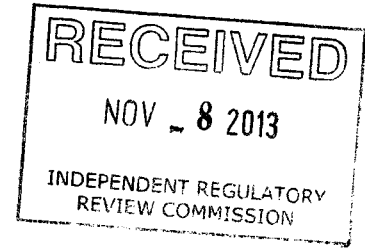
Patricia L. Witt
1627 Williams Way
West Chester, PA 19380



2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Tom Beccone <tbeccone@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 7:52 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to express my opposition to the implementation of the Keystone Graduation Exams. I am outraged that what amounts to an unfunded state mandate is about to be visited upon the taxpayers of the Commonwealth in the form of a series of tests which are not necessarily aligned with local curriculum. Aside from this cost factor (which undoubtedly will be borne not by the state but by local taxpayers through increased school taxes) there is the chance that students could pass the subjects required by their schools for graduation yet still fail the Keystone Graduation Exams. As a former high school teacher I am appalled at the idea that yet another exam (PSSAs anyone?) is going to take up the time allotted for teaching. With the continual interruptions for exams (PSSAs, AP exams, etc.) larger chunks of time are taken away from the classroom teacher who is trying to cover the full curriculum. Furthermore, local districts have had little or no input into what the exams will cover and in many cases our students came back from taking the prototype exams and claimed that they were being tested on things they had not been taught!! This is really not a fair test in many ways. **Please do not implement this horrific example of standardization gone wild.**

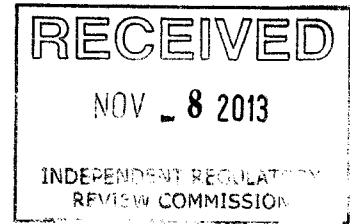
Thank you,

Tom Beccone,
103 Willow Glade Ct.
Exton, Pennsylvania
19341

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: findknm@roadrunner.com
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 9:51 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Parent of 3 children in PA



Dear Mr. Sumner,

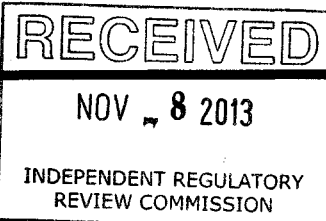
Please do not implement Keystone testing and other provisions of Common Core. I am trying to be open-minded and research how this benefits the children of Pennsylvania and am, unfortunately, finding no evidence in favor of Common Core. We are American, in part, because we have a student-centric educational system, something that Hong Kong is moving towards. Please don't let this initiative take hold and marginalize our children. Here's a link that I hope helps with your decision:
http://sitemaker.umich.edu/li.356/math_education.
Maybe our scores aren't as great worldwide but we have something that they don't: Freedom. Please don't take that from our children.

Yours Sincerely,

Kim Mascia, MD

Cooper, Kathy

2976



From: Sichel, Amy <AmySichel@Abington.k12.pa.us>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 7:15 AM
To: Stafford, Judy; Keller, Carol L.
Cc: IRRRC
Subject: Re: Written Comments Regulation #6 – 326: Academic Standards and Assessment

For the file with the position statement from the 4 counties on Keystones send graduation requirements

Amy

- > On Nov 5, 2013, at 5:28 PM, "Mary Curley" <MaryC@cciu.org> wrote:
- >
- > Dear Chairman Lutkewitte and members of the IRRRC:
- > I am writing on behalf of the four IU executive directors of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties and 55 public school district superintendents from those counties. Thank you for the opportunity to present written comments regarding Regulation #6 - 326: Academic Standards and Assessment which amends existing regulations to reflect Pennsylvania's Common Core Standards in English language arts; address test security concerns; and require students to demonstrate proficiency on the Keystone Exams in order to graduate from high school.
- >
- > The attached position paper outlines the major challenges and concerns with the current implementation strategy of the Keystone Exams and Pennsylvania's school accountability system. As a result, 55 Pennsylvania public school superintendents and four IU executive directors from southeastern Pennsylvania urge the Commission and our legislators to re-examine the regulations requiring Keystone Exams for students' graduation, expanding the required number of Keystone Exams from three to five, and to using a single, high-stake test to measure individual student learning and achievement.
- >
- > The attached document:
- >
- > * Describes the concerns public school districts have with the implementation of the Keystone Exams;
- > * Details the challenges caused by increased testing, changing accountability systems and poor communication; and
- > * Expresses the need to re-evaluate the need for high-stake testing and how the results are used to evaluate our students, our teachers and our schools.
- >
- > Thank you for your time and your consideration regarding this matter.
- >
- > Best regards,
- >

> Mary Jeanne Curley
> Communications Director
> Chester County Intermediate Unit
> 484-237-5171
> <IRRC Superintendent Keystone Letter_11_04_13.pdf> <IRRC
> Superintendent Keystone Letter_11_04_13.pdf>

Abington School District

Excellence is Our Standard
Achievement is the Result

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