



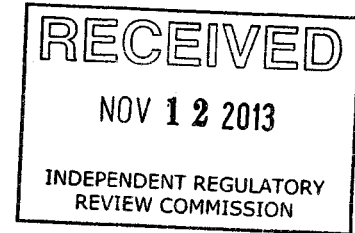
...for the sake of the child

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November 11, 2013

2976

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III  
Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market St., 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



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

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Military Child Education Coalition for final-form regulation #6-326, related to academic standards and assessments, and urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to approve the regulation which adopts the Pennsylvania Core Standards in English and math, along with aligned assessments, including Keystone Exams.

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is a 501 © (3) nonprofit with a solid national and international reputation in support of America's military-connected children. For 15 years, the MCEC has worked diligently through our research, initiatives, and advocacy efforts to develop and grow the awareness, systems and supports for the children and youth with parents serving in the Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Forces as well as those with parents who are Veterans.

We believe that the adoption of the Pennsylvania Core Standards, along with aligned assessments that include Keystone Exams, are essential for military-connected students because of the likelihood of increasing predictability and continuity of mobile students' academic experiences. The framework for clear and consistent standards is vital for a population of students who move three times more frequently than their civilian classmates or experience the turbulence of separation from a parent.

We understand and agree with this attempt to strike the right balance between accountability and support of Pennsylvania's students by passing and implementing the Pennsylvania Core Standards, which are aligned with the Common Core State Standards but developed by Pennsylvania teachers.

The Military Child Education Coalition strongly encourages the Pennsylvania legislature to reaffirm its commitment to high standards for all of Pennsylvania's children by approving Final-Form Regulation #6-326. We are confident that by providing a stable learning environment, Pennsylvania will continue to contribute to our nation's children graduating from high school being college, career, and life-ready ... for the sake of the child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary M. Keller".

Mary M. Keller, Ed.D.  
President and CEO