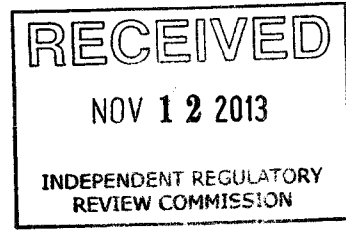


2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 1:05 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Shellie

Last Name: Caster

City/State: Washington, p

Email: jesusmatters@comcast.net

Subject: NO to Common Core Teaching

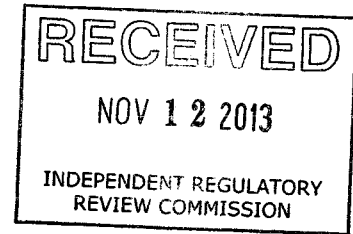
Message:

I feel we should say no to common core teaching and stop trying to indoctrinate our children to be government robots and do what they are told we need to teach everything we can to assist them in becoming everything they can be, the need to know the true history of the country along with all important things however they should never be told it is ok to be bi sexual, or homosexual behavior is alright. That is something that is not taught in school that is morally upto the family life in my personal feelings God. Now we need to teach academics and PA needs to lead the way to education and get these kids back in the game of life. Reading, Math, History and English

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 7:57 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: David

Last Name: Weitzel

City/State: ,

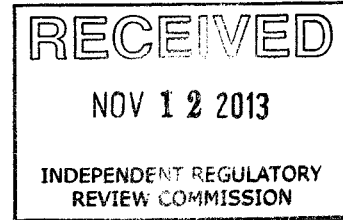
Email: dweitzel@cbsd.org

Subject: Chapter #4 Regulations

Message:

A careful balancing act is required - in sum, we as a school district need to move forward with the Core Standards, however, the linkage between the Keystones and graduation requirements needs to be decoupled. PDE and the federal government have placed too much emphasis on high stakes testing.

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 9:29 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: david

Last Name: singer

City/State: DuBois,

Email: klausmurra@aol.com

Subject: Common Core

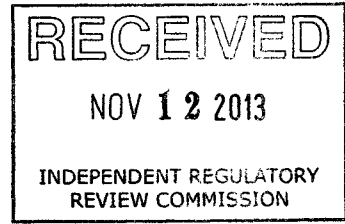
Message:

I urge you to shut down the Common Core Educational Standards initiative in Pa. We have no clue how we will pay for the increased costs which will be incurred at both the state and local district level. This will give much more federal control/influence over our education system. That is purely idiotic. The creation of a federal data base of student information, which will probably follow my grandchildren for life, is an outrage as well as a violation of their rights. If my grandson is forced to take ridilin, at the direction of the local school, will he later be prohibited from some state certification [or a gun carry permit] because the government decides that he cannot do so? ... why does the state need to know and document his health history and behavioral record? This is a dangerous step in education, which will dumb down our education system. PLEASE do not permit this to happen. Thank you, David Singer

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 9:13 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Denise

Last Name: Duerksen

City/State: Gibsonia, PA

Email: dwduerk@zoominternet.net

Subject: Common Core

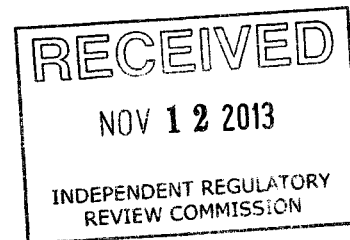
Message:

Pennsylvania should not adopt Common Core because of it takes local control away from school districts. It further simplifies the curriculum which is teaching to tests. Children should be treated as a whole child, not a collection of data points designed to determine their future. Pennsylvania can do better than Common Core thus it should say no to Common Core.

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 1:53 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Roseann

Last Name: Miller

City/State: Dry Run, Pennsylvania

Email: drdjmillier@pa.net

Subject: Reject Common Core

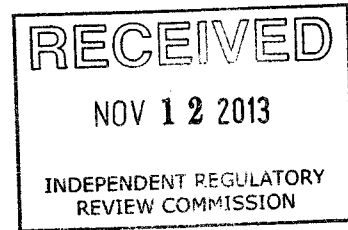
Message:

I am writing to urge that you REJECT common core for Pennsylvania. This "program" will only dumb down our children further so they are not prepared to enter the real world while it invades students and families privacy at a greater financial cost to already overburdened citizens.

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2013 8:12 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Dave

Last Name: Sacks

City/State: Greensburg, Pa

Email: sacks.dave@gmail.com

Subject: Keystone Exams

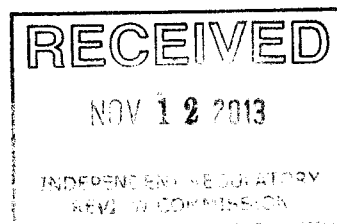
Message:

This letter is in support of the The State Board of Education's approval of the so-called Common Core standards, which require all students to pass proficiency tests in science, math, and language arts before graduating. Plans call for students to take Keystone tests in up to 10 subject areas in coming years. The standards are a voluntary initiative that establishes proficiency requirements for kindergarten through 12th grade. So far, it has been adopted by 45 states Perhaps the biggest problem is that many students graduate from high school without the academic skills they need to succeed in college. According to the 2009 Pa. state Department of Education, one in three recent high school graduates who attend Pennsylvania's public universities and community colleges takes at least one remedial course to catch up with their peers in math, reading or English. According to a Pennsylvania Dept of Education study released in January 2009, more than 40% of Pennsylvania high schools' graduates required remediation in mathematics and reading before they were prepared to take college level courses in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education or community colleges We need to improve the outcomes of high school graduates, and have better and more frequent measurements of their progress. This can only be accomplished by testing the common core and Keystone Exams as they have been proposed. I fully support retaining and implementing the above testing proposal as they have been presented.

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 3:53 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Lisa

Last Name: Esler

City/State: Aston, Pa

Email: esler.lisa@yahoo.com

Subject: Common Core Concerns

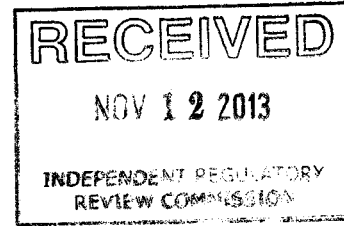
Message:

I am a school board director in Penn Delco & have many concerns about Common Core which I only learned about a year ago. There are enough "RED FLAGS" and concerns from parents, teachers and local school districts about cost, curriculum, data collection & loss of local control that Pa needs to heed these concerns before moving forward with an untested experiment on our children. No only is this costly but we could lose years of our children's education on a idea created by special interest groups with no legislative authority and no data to prove that CCS works. I will remind you that we spent 10 years or so on an experiment called "sight reading" to replace phonics. It was embraced by many districts only to find out that children could not read. Any one tied to education including legislators, teachers, superintendents, school board directors and most of all the the Dept of Education who does not step back and take a serious look at what so many have expressed in their comments, should seriously consider whether they have the best interest of children. Thank you, Lisa Esler
Penn Delco School Board Director

Cooper, Kathy

2974

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 10:58 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: MARY

Last Name: BEEBIE

City/State: CHALFONT, PA

Email: MKDT317@MSN.COM

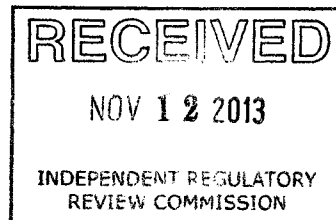
Subject: EDUCATION

Message:
STOP Common Core!

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 6:59 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Andrew

Last Name: Trump

City/State: New tripoli, Pa

Email: Lucky13acres@verizon.net

Subject: Common core

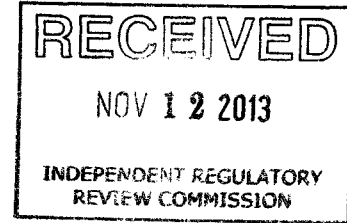
Message:

Please stop common core now. This will take away local control of our schools. These of our kids and we know what they need, not the government. Thanks for your help.

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 1:05 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Shellie

Last Name: Caster

City/State: Washington, p

Email: jesusmatters@comcast.net

Subject: NO to Common Core Teaching

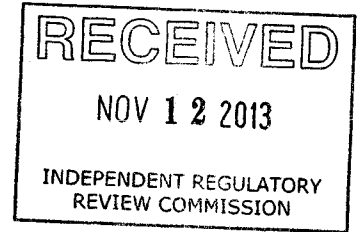
Message:

I feel we should say no to common core teaching and stop trying to indoctrinate our children to be government robots and do what they are told we need to teach everything we can to assist them in becoming everything they can be, the need to know the true history of the country along with all important things however they should never be told it is ok to be bi sexual, or homosexual behavior is alright. That is something that is not taught in school that is morally upto the family life in my personal feelings God. Now we need to teach academics and PA needs to lead the way to education and get these kids back in the game of life. Reading, Math, History and English

Cooper, Kathy

2976.

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 9:16 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Henry C.

Last Name: Holland

City/State: Jefferson Hills, Pa

Email: hollandh440@hotmail.com

Subject: Common Core

Message:

Dear Commission Members Every thing that I have read and heard tells me that their is nothing good in the Common Core program. The Common Core is Socialism.

2974
Cooper, Kathy

RECEIVED

From: Gary Marck <gjmarck@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 6:01 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

NOV 12 2013

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Of course there should be exams at this level. How do you ensure that across the state all have satisfied minimum requirements for, at least, an academic curriculum graduation?? If the students are expected to compete on an occupational level you would expect they have the minimum tools to do just that. At this point there is absolutely no way to ensure that.

It also allows the state to assess those providing that education and are they satisfying and meeting the thresholds as established by the state.

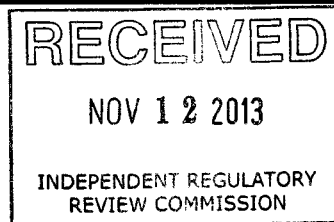
Being one who went through the educational system in New York with the Regents exams I think that the present system in Pennsylvania has no accountability for the quality of education provided.

Gary Marck

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Stephanie <shouse81502@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 7:24 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: oppose Keystone exam



David,

I find it nauseating that PDE is putting another test on the children of Pennsylvania that is really NOT needed. I do believe that to succeed our children need to learn and retain information but this is absurd! Some of the kids in school are not able to handle taking algebra or geometry or chemistry (and some elect to take different classes altogether) because they don't get to that level so this requirement will cause those student to not graduate automatically. If student grades are no longer going to be a factor in passing/graduating or not then what is the point to them? Lets do away with them and take that off the teachers so they have the extra time to focus on this silly test. Not only are students not given enough time to learn the needed material to succeed in life but now they are going to have worry about passing a test to graduate regardless of their grades and past successes. Children are being stressed as young as 3rd grade with standard testing which takes time out from learning the meat and potatoes of their education just to show the school district is or is not doing a good job. Adding to that they are stressed in high school if they decide to take the ACT or SAT. Wait...Lets also do away with SATs as this test will score different levels too. Then some are further stressed by applying to colleges, some whom are not good test takers just to be further stressed unnecessarily to pass another test after successfully completing grades 9-12 with passing grades. IT'S NOT FAIR TO OUR CHILDREN AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. Also, who is going to pay for all this!? I don't feel tax payers should have to feel the pain of increased taxes to cover yet another RIDICULOUS AND POINTLESS cause. Schools are already pushed to the limit in their budget (I.E elimination of full day kindergarten this school year in East Pennsboro SD due to budget constraints) this will just be another stressor for the schools and their communities. I would rather pay higher taxes to re-institute full day kindergarten which IS beneficial to ALL students rather than instituting a ludicrous test.

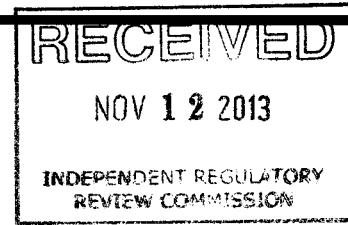
PLEASE SAY NO TO KEYSTONE GRADUATION EXAMS!

Stephanie House

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Diane Opdyke <opdykediane@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:41 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: keystone exams



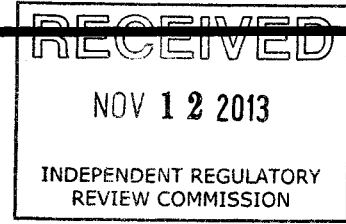
I would like to go on record as opposing the Keystone Exams. Public schools do not need yet another mandate that must be funded by the local taxpayers. After having suffered through the PSSAs with my students, i see no reason to subject the students to yet another useless test and the taxpayers to added taxes.

Diane Opdyke

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Nanci Bluum <nanciblum@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 8:57 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exam



I know that states need test's for evaluation. I am strongly against the keystone exams being used against students for graduation. Every student learns different, it's bad enough teacher's have to teach to these exams. Our students already have the stress of sat's it's discussing that the state is doing this. Shame on them.

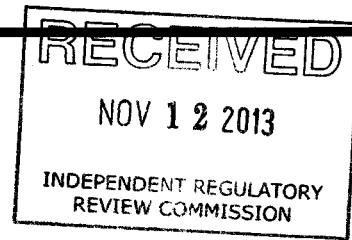
Thank you,
Nanci Blum

Sent from my iPhone

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Linda Mayger <Indmayg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 9:11 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystones



I am writing in support of the State Keystone exams. I am a teacher who is also completing my internship for principal certification and the parent of an eighth grade student in PA public schools. I feel strongly that exit exams hold school districts accountable for providing a minimal standard of education to their graduates. If anything, the proposed exit exams measure basic understanding of material high school sophomores should have mastered and my examination of the requirements for the Algebra Keystone is that it eliminates the most difficult Algebra 1 material.

Not only do I support holding districts accountable for educating their graduates and feel that the exams are not overly difficult, another change to the testing schedule would be disruptive. The uncertainty surrounding the Common Core implementation was confusing for teachers and in some cases delayed implementation. While I fully support making revisions to make sure things are working optimally, it is time to step back from the politics and allow schools to make these systems work.

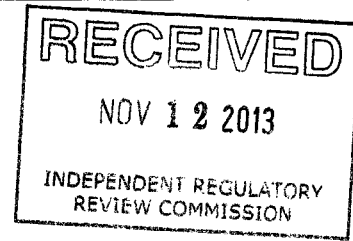
If I were to advocate one change it would be to have eighth grade Algebra students skip the math PSSA. My son will be taking four state tests this year and that seems a bit much, but in the scheme of things we can live with it.

Linda Mayger

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Roselyn Cadoff <racadoff@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 12:20 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



Dear Sir:

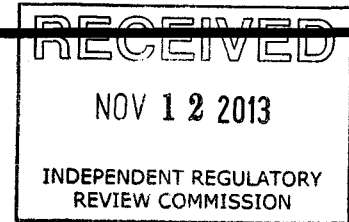
I urge you and the IRRC members to reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. As a retired educator and PA taxpayer, I strongly oppose the Keystone Graduation Exams.

Yours truly,
Roselyn Cadoff

Cooper, Kathy

2974

From: Gene Dellinger <1ofthefew1775@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 1:01 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams - Common Core



NO COMMON CORE — NO KEYSTONE GRADUATION EXAMS!

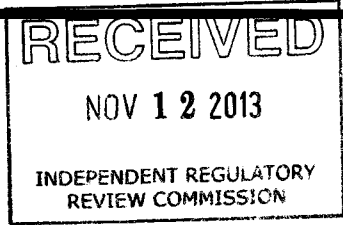
**AND, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, ELIMINATE
TEACHER'S UNIONS, DEMAND STRIVING FOR
EXCELLENCE, AND STOP DUMBING DOWN
OUR NATION. GET BACK TO EDUCATING OUR
CHILDREN INSTEAD OF LYING TO THEM AND
BRAINWASHING THEM WITH SOCIALIST
IDEALS AND MOMMY-STATE PROPAGANDA!**

*"The strongest reason for the people to retain the
right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to
protect themselves against tyranny in government."
Thomas Jefferson*

Cooper, Kathy

2974

From: Dave Kirsch <dkirsch@mcheraldonline.com>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:33 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: KEYSTONE GRAD EXAMS



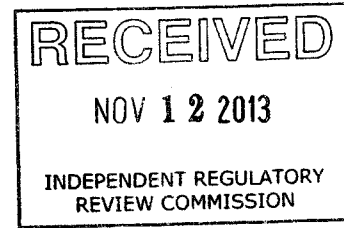
HELLO MR. SUMNER. I AM WRITING TO URGE YOU TO VETO, AND VOTE NO TO THE PROPOSED "KEYSTONE GRADUATION EXAMS". THIS IS JUST MORE RIDICULOUS LEGISLATION. COMMON CORE IS AN ABHORRENT PROGRAM, AND MUST NEVER BE ALLOWED, APPROVED OR LEGISLATED IN PENNSYLVANIA.

SINCERELY,
DAVID KIRSCH

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: King Richard <theprune51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 1:08 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Common Core



Dear Friends:

Please turn back the Common Core agenda. From what I've read about the law it is a large step backwards.

Richard King
MEd Education
Certified Special Education Consulting Teacher
Certified Teacher for High School Biology, High School General Science
and Social Studies

<http://www.bibletimelines.org>

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Elaine B Rybski <elaine@rybski.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2013 4:10 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Objections to Keystone exams



To IRRC Executive Director David Sumner:

I am writing to express my objections to the Keystone Graduation Exams. There are many reasons why these tests would affect our students in a massive and negative way.

First, these exams would cost taxpayers an enormous amount of money that is simply not available, especially in poorer school districts. These tests are not funded by the state or federal governments, but the money must still come from somewhere. School property taxes in Pennsylvania are already very high, and because the funding formula allows those taxes to stay in the same district they were raised, the poorer school districts get significantly less money than the richer districts.

Second, the exams are tied to the Common Core, a program where students nationwide are expected to fail associated standardized tests miserably. Why are we setting up our students for failure? This will lower graduation rates correspondingly, and very undeservedly. What of special education students, or those who are excellent students overall but simply test badly? These tests, like all the standardized tests, assume that all students learn the same way and at the same rate. They do not deserve to be punished in this way.

Third, it is unfair to have tests that are developed without consulting teachers or educators. It is unfair to have tests that the teachers are not even allowed to see beforehand, to help students learn the material. It is unfair to not let teachers see the tests afterwards to find out what students need to improve upon. It is unfair to have tests that are not aligned with what the students are actually learning (since, after all, Common Core was supposed to be guidelines).

Fourth, the number of tests that students are taking has skyrocketed in recent years. Because of this, and because of the high-stakes nature of many of the tests (teachers' jobs are essentially dependent on their students doing well), teachers are teaching to the tests, concentrating on test prep strategies and review of test materials, and giving practice tests. There is hardly any time left for actual learning. In Pittsburgh, the fourth-graders are taking approximately 42 tests per year, in a 180-day school year. If each test takes on day (a simplistic assumption), and an additional 21 days are used for test prep, that is 1/3 of the school year lost with no actual learning going on. Other grades are no better.

For these reasons, and for many others not listed here, I am asking that you please do not approve the Keystones to be added as graduation requirements.

Sincerely,

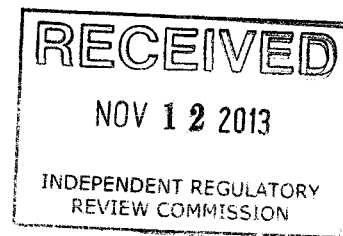
Elaine Rybski

Elaine B. Rybski, Ballroom Dance Instructor
522 Gettysburg St., Pittsburgh, PA 15206
<http://sites.google.com/site/elainerybski/>
elaine@rybski.net
412.441.5521

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Margaret (Gretchen) Cole <margaretacole@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 10:19 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: DinnimanSenate@gmail.com
Subject: Why I Oppose the Keystone Graduation Exams



Dear Mr. Sumner:

I am deeply concerned about the proposal to introduce standardized final exams as graduation requirements in certain classes.

As a test prep tutor, I am concerned because I know first-hand that success on a standardized test bears little relationship to actual knowledge of the material. It is possible to know content well and do poorly on a test due to test anxiety, executive functioning issues, or even an incipient cold on test day! It is also possible to apply test-taking techniques that would yield, if not an excellent score, at least a passing score, with no meaningful understanding of the topic. Any standardized test can be gamed and, the higher the stakes, the sooner people will start figuring out how to game it and spending school time not on content but on test-taking strategies that have no transferable value to our society as a whole.

Furthermore, as a tutor I also see that it is NOT possible to teach content in a test prep context in such a way as to communicate love for the subject or even thorough understanding of the subject. I teach math and reading, two things I consider beautiful and precious, but my students simply cannot allow themselves to appreciate the value of these topics when they are under the gun to just figure out how to boost their scores as much and as fast as possible. My only consolation is that I am supplementing the work of the classroom teacher who IS teaching fundamental principles and the joy of the subject. If ALL teachers are only test-prep teachers, I cannot imagine the scope of the loss of true academic achievement our Pennsylvania schoolchildren will suffer.

As the parent of an exceptional learner, I am concerned because I have seen how much time and energy was wasted and how much emotional damage was done to my son by an artificial requirement that his school happened to impose relative to the PSSAs. This damage did not begin with the tests themselves; it began when he was tracked into completely inappropriate math classes because those were the topics to be tested. He was forced to spend three years studying material that his brain simply was not wired to comprehend or retain, and thereby prevented from studying other math topics that he loved, simply in the hopes that doing the same thing again and again (putting him through the Algebra/Geometry track) would yield a different result: Proficient on the PSSA's. Thank God the school could not legally withhold his diploma when remediation actually made his scores go DOWN, and thank God that he eventually was released from this hamster wheel to focus on his mathematical gifts of finance and statistics. Because he graduated, my son is now doing well at Thaddeus Stevens studying Print Tech and Graphic Design, which includes business math and computer applications classes in which he is doing well. Had graduation been delayed or withheld, he could never have gone on to learn a trade that he is falling in love with and discover at last the joy of learning rather than just the drudgery.

As a certified teacher and student of the the philosophy of education, I am also concerned, because I see the imposition of standardized tests on every Pennsylvanian child as a denial of everything we value most in America. Yes, the fact that students graduate without being able to read, write and reckon is appalling, but their problem is not that they don't take enough tests! Their problem is that they don't get breakfast, that they can't sleep at night because they are in danger, that they have nowhere to study because their homes are noisy, dirty or chaotic, that their families do not value education because they never reaped its benefits, that districts disregard everything that is known about how children learn and schools succeed because they don't want to raise taxes or jeopardize sports... another test will NOT address these root causes of educational failure. All it

will do is quash the creativity and individuality that have built this country so far and ensure that students like my son are defined for life by their inability to learn some arbitrarily chosen subject such as Algebra I or Biology. Please don't hammer another nail in the coffin of failing schools and failing students. Please stop this terrible plan. Thank you.

Gretchen Cole
503 West Lafayette Street
West Chester, PA 19380
margaretacole@gmail.com
(610)299-5262

"Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly." ~ St. Francis de Sales