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FRAZIER SCHOOL DISTRICT

142 CONSTITUTION STREET, PERRYOPOLIS, PA 15473-1390

FAX: (724) 736-0688

Dr. David G. Blozowich, Superintendent
dblozowich@frazierschooldistrict.org
724-736-4432

Vicki Olexa, Board Secretary
Olexa@atlanticbb.net
724-736-4432

November 5, 2013

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

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

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Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

I am writing to express my strong support for the final form regulation #6-326 related to academic standards and assessments. I urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's approval. The regulation adopts the Pennsylvania Core Standards in English and Math, along with aligned assessments, including Keystone Exams.

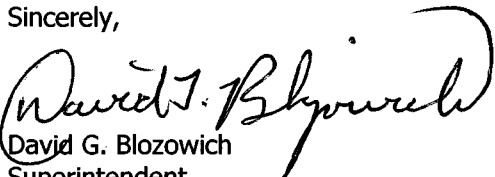
As a school district Superintendent, I know how important it is to hold all students to high expectations so they can achieve more in life. The more rigorous, internationally benchmarked PA Core Standards set high, uniform expectations for what our students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The Keystone Exams, aligned to the Pa Core Standards, will assess students' knowledge at or near the end of the course, farther than two or three years later. When it is too late to help struggling students catch up, to hold our schools and students accountable for results.

The Frazier School District has presently aligned the language arts curriculum and the mathematics curriculum K-12 to the PA Core Standards. The District has purchased Read 180 and Go Math to assist in both enrichment and remediation of the PA Core Standards. The District has and continues to utilize seven (7) In-service Days and four (4) Act 80 Days annually to provide training, time and support to the professional staff on topics and issues pertaining to the PA Common Core Standards.

If adopted, the final form regulation would make some important 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 10 to 5) thus cutting testing time for students and reducing the number of courses in which districts are required to provide supplemental instruction. It also eliminates the provision that Keystone Exams count for at least one-third of student's final grade and pushes back the timeline for Keystone Exams to be a graduation requirement from 2015 to 2017.

Again, I support the final form Chapter 4 regulations as a sensible approach to make certain that the Commonwealth's students achieve to rigorous PA Core Standards and are prepared to transition to postsecondary education, 21st century careers, military service and productive citizenship.

Sincerely,



David G. Blozowich
Superintendent