

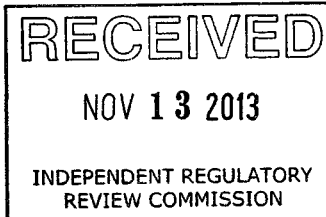


# Pennsylvania Business Council

116 Pine Street, Suite 201  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101  
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November 13, 2013

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



*Re: Proposed Regulation #6-326 - Academic Standards and Assessments  
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.*

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

The members of the Pennsylvania Business Council Policy Roundtable strongly support the Chapter 4 regulatory package before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The proposed academic standards were an outstanding improvement in their first form in 2010, but they are even better today. The input of lawmakers, the public and interest groups, and the deliberation of the State Board of Education have brought appropriate scrutiny and debate to these important topics. We believe the final product is stronger for this debate.

Rigorous academic standards with aligned assessments that seek to ensure student mastery of core subjects are essential to making our students truly ready for careers and post-secondary education. A well-educated and prepared population is absolutely necessary to grow Pennsylvania's talented workforce and absolutely necessary to make Pennsylvania a competitive environment for economic growth and prosperity.

The Pennsylvania Business Council Policy Roundtable believes the Pennsylvania Core Standards provide a firm, well-understood, internationally bench-marked foundation upon which each of our schools can build its curriculum reflective of local needs and preferences.

The Pennsylvania Business Council Policy Roundtable has long supported end-of-course exams with rapid remediation that help students to master core competencies before being pushed along to more advanced course work for which they may lack the skills necessary to succeed. PBC supports making the Keystone Exams – the aligned assessments – a graduation requirement to earn a Pennsylvania high school diploma.

We strongly urge approval of this regulation.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy L. Pape  
Chairperson

David W. Patti  
President & CEO

Patrick Young  
President - Small & Middle Market Business PA/DE  
Aetna - HealthAmerica

Dale G. Reid  
Executive VP, Finance & CFO  
Allegheny Technologies Incorporated

Harry Halloran  
Chairman & CEO  
American Refining Group

Ed Frey  
General Manager  
ArcelorMittal

John Burke  
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Armada Supply Chain

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Duquesne Light

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President & Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. Steel Corporation

Carl Erhart  
Regional Vice President  
Verizon – Pennsylvania, Inc.

Gregory S. Redden  
EVP & Regional President for Greater PA  
Wells Fargo

Cooper, Kathy

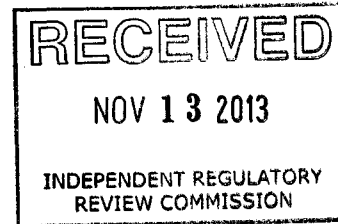
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**From:** Dave Patti <dpatti@pabusinesscouncil.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2013 3:11 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Final-Form Regulations #6-326 – Academic Standards and Assessments  
**Attachments:** PBC Roundtable Ltr to IRRC -- Chapter 4 11-21-2013.pdf

Attached is an official letter of support for Final-Form Regulations #6-326 – Academic Standards and Assessments from the members of the Pennsylvania Business Council Policy Roundtable. You will see that more than 50 Pennsylvania business leaders agreed to have their names affixed to this letter as co-signers. Thank you.

*Dave*

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