

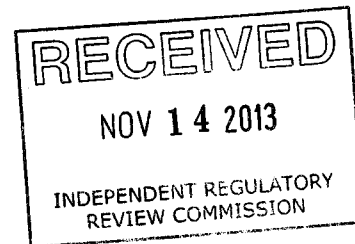
# Berks County Workforce Investment Board

Michael J. Rowley  
Chair

Edward J. McCann, CWDP  
Chief Operating Officer

2976

November 13, 2013



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

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

Our Workforce Investment Board hereby expresses its support for the final-form regulation #6-326 (Academic Standards and Assessments) which would adopt the Pennsylvania Core Standards and aligned assessments, including the Keystone Exams.

We believe this educational reform would offer our employers assurance that a Pennsylvania high school graduate is, in fact, possessed of the requisite basic skills to be successful and advance in a career. The Commonwealth's businesses and industries should be able to depend on rigorous benchmarked standards for English and math, as demonstrated through a variety of program assessment tools, which testify to the students' performance.

There is no question that today's labor market requires higher levels of skills than heretofore and full adoption of the Core Standards will show that our graduates have these basic skills.

We respectfully request that your Committee approve the regulation in question.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. J. McCann".

Edward J. McCann, CWDP  
Chief Operating Officer