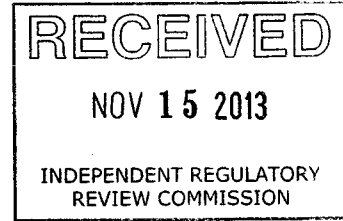


2976



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE BUSINESS MANAGER
50 East Eagle Road
Havertown, PA 19083



November 11, 2013

2976

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find a Resolution by the Board of Directors of the School District of Haverford Township opposing the Keystone Exams graduation requirement. This Resolution was adopted at their November 7, 2013 Regular Public Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Henderson
Board Secretary/Business Manager

RTH/rmc

Enclosure

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM

Adopted by the Board of School Directors of
The School District of Haverford Township
on November 7, 2013

WHEREAS, the School District of Haverford Township is committed to preparing all students for success in college and the workplace by providing a challenging and rich curriculum that focuses on developing in students a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, some of the School District of Haverford Township's students have consistently shown understanding of state standards through a variety of assessments including course exams, portfolios, oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, as well as other nationally recognized exams, demonstrating that the rigors of the curriculum more than satisfy state standards, but those students have not scored proficient on one or more Keystone Exams; and

WHEREAS, the School District of Haverford Township recognizes the importance of the PA Common Core and its related assessments and will use the Keystone and local assessments to provide the District with information about students in need of remediation; and

WHEREAS, basing important decisions on limited and imperfect information can harm students, teachers and communities; and increasing student stress and further diminishing instructional time; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams graduation requirement will cause an increase in remediation courses which will have economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness and represent an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams graduation requirement will necessitate remediation courses which will reduce a student's ability to select electives that would engage and discover abilities and interests that would educate and shape their future as lifelong learners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the School District of Haverford Township opposes the State Board of Education approved final form revisions the Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessment) and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. The District seeks support from other school boards, local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees in petitioning the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to bifurcate approval of Chapter 4, approving language pursuant to PA Common Core and removing language requiring the unfunded mandate of passing graduation exams.

This resolution will be shared with the Pennsylvania School Board Association for dissemination to Commonwealth School Districts, Intermediate Units, local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.