

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Mrs. Janine Spence <[serving@theindependentmission.org](mailto:-serving@theindependentmission.org)>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:02 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Our Testimony: Regulation #6 – 326: Academic Standards and Assessment and IRRC # 2976

To Whom It May Concern-- We are very much opposed to the implementation of the Common Core curriculum here in PA. Besides this curriculum being unaffordable, we have these reasons/facts that are very alarming:

1. The Common Core curriculum standards lack freedom in the classroom. As we have seen with "No Child Left Behind," standardized testing, teachers are forced to teach to the test rather than use their teaching talents. This limits freedom in the classroom for meaningful discussion, creativity in learning, personal connection, and spontaneity of the class.
2. There is no consideration for Special Needs Children in this curriculum. There are no variations for children with different needs. All children are required to reach the same standards at the time regardless of culture, special needs, and abilities. It is a one size fits all standard for children.
3. The Common Core carry questionable and inappropriate lessons. Each day, more examples are brought to the nation's attention for questionable content with regards to age appropriateness, clarity and content of the assignment, political indoctrination, and social morality.
4. Though Common Core claims to be "internationally benchmarked", that claim is not proven. Rather, it's really just the opposite. International benchmark has been downgraded to "internationally viewed" or created with benchmarking goals. Common Core Math is 2 years behind the benchmark. See this link for quotes from Common Core math writers as proof: http://www.utahnsagainstcommoncore.com/what-do-the-cc-math-authors-say-about-them/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=facebookWhat%20do%20the%20CC%20math%20authors%20say%20about%20them?.
5. More Government Bureaucracy-- Though standards are marketed as "state led", Common Core is a federal mandate of standards swept into place with the stimulus package. Common Core was created by a private organization and states agreed to its implementation sight unseen as it was not yet complete. Alignment with the Common Core was required to receive education funding from the Stimulus Package and was offered to replace the unpopular No Child Left Behind. Let the states and people decide what's best for their children, not the government.
6. Privacy Issues Compromised-- We understand that 400 data points will be collected, stored, and referenced over the course of a student's lifetime. Data includes everything from grades and discipline, to medical records and political and religious affiliations. In the "Promoting Grit and Tenacity" booklet produced by the Dept. of Education (see <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/technology/files/2013/02/OET-Draft-Grit-Report-2-17-13.pdf>), there are future plans to use new technologies to collect bio-data. This report acknowledges the trade off of privacy for progress. Federal privacy statutes were re-written to accommodate data sharing of children for RTTT, although PA has said they currently will not expand their data collection. Although in 2011 the Obama Administration changed the federal student privacy laws (FERPA), even the ACLU and EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center) oppose Common Core data mining and the FERPA changes! We do too!
7. Common Core's methods are still untested! Common Core's philosophy of education is untested and has received poor reviews from top educators. The program has been labeled as "a joke" and "dumbed down", while many teachers describe instructions and assignments as confusing to students, having ridiculous extra steps, and not age appropriate. Please refer to

http://whatiscommoncore.wordpress.com/2013/09/07/top-ten-professors-calling-out-common-cores-so-called-college-readiness/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter to read about 10

Professors who oppose Common Core. We understand that cursive writing is not taught in Common Core curriculum. Please refer to <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/231990071.html>.

8. Too Expensive: Common Core curriculum will take money and time that should go to a comprehensive education. We understand that, though the total cost is not yet calculated as to how expensive Common Core will be when fully implemented, it will require a new curriculum to be aligned with the program, new texts, tests, software for government reporting, data maintenance, new employees on the payroll for data support, new report card system, etc. Funding for Common Core necessities will have to get priority because federal funding depends on implementation. Arts and programs other than Common Core will have to take a back seat. In fact, New York City schools finally received their Common Core textbooks late and full of errors

(<http://dailycaller.com/2013/11/13/common-core-textbooks-arrive-late-filled-with-errors/>).

9. Lying about its sources and implementation-- This really concerns us! We understand that all levels of government have consistently and intentionally misrepresented both the source of the drafting of Common Core Standards, as well as which branch is responsible for it. This fact is seen from slight alterations in the name of Common Core to deceive concerned citizens at a state level to outright name calling by the US Secretary of Education. Deception about state-led construction and initiative, as well as proof of benchmarking and positive student outcomes continues. How can we support something that begins this way?

10. We also are concerned that a federal standard was never voted on by the Senate, House of Representatives, or by any voter. It was a condition for eligibility for federal stimulus funds and agreed upon sight unseen by 45 states!

We believe that this push Common Core on everyone is not right and is against our American freedoms.

Please let us choose which curriculum we want to be taught to our children and don't opt for this questionable and downgrading material to be introduced to our precious, innocent children. Lead the way for higher standards; reject the Common Core curriculum in PA!

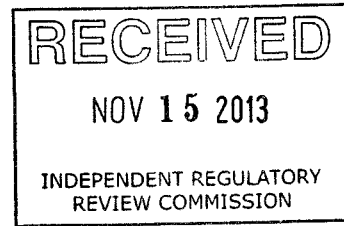
Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Spence
Monongahela, PA

2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Whitey <whitey.coyne@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 3:59 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Common Core hidden agenda



Mr. Sumner.

The following discussion is in reference to IRRC # 2976 and is intended to make the case that the federal government and its Common Core should be kept OUT of the Pennsylvania education system at all costs.

There has been a relentless power and control grab by the Federal government in recent years at the expense of personal, local and state authority, from dictating the kind of light bulbs we use to the unconstitutional and catastrophically expensive health care takeover atrocity. One of the most insidious of these is the Common Core educational standards program that the Federal government has already bribed a number of states to initiate.

This is no more nor less than the dumbing-down of America's K-12 educational system to a lowest common denominator to satisfy the progressive thirst for control! A combination of ignorance and arrogance is a very dangerous thing! The plan starts out with seemingly innocuous "standards" to be achieved at each grade level, which must be tested and met. But there are already indications that curricula will eventually be dictated and this material will be politicized. A recent copy of "The Science Teacher" journal suggests that students in the 5th grade should begin to "understand" the "expectations" of global climate change! This should most accurately be termed propaganda and indoctrination. All science through grade 12 should be concerned only with the established basics such as biology, physics, chemistry and the associated mathematics.

In addition, the federal initiative seeks to create a data base for all K-12 students with an eye toward directing the "careers" of these students in true "progressive" fashion. "1984" arrives, just 30 years later than expected by Orwell !

Finally, there is no consideration about how much this initiative will cost the taxpayers of Pennsylvania. Let us have no more unfunded mandates!

There is no constitutional justification for the federal government to be involved in what has been and should be a local and state responsibility. I strongly urge you work to eliminate CCS from Pennsylvania schools by supporting HB 1551 (Rep. Tallman) and HB 1552 (Rep. Bloom) to repeal Common Core standards in state schools and exempt private, parochial and home schools from them. The unconstrained growth and control of the Federal government must be checked!

Thank you for your attention.

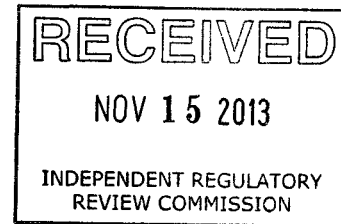
George Coyne

31 Barren Road

Newtown Square, PA 19073

Cooper, Kathy

From: Heidi Bashen <hebashen@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:01 AM
To: IRRC
Cc: Edie Landis
Subject: Keystone standards (Common Core)



I had been fairly happy with the education my child was receiving in the public school system until I really started paying attention to what she was doing in school. At first it was just little things like an incorrect annotation in a history book or the different way of doing math. Last year when my daughter was in 9th grade it became more apparent of how things were changing and why.

One evening she came home and told me she had to answer 4 surveys. She said the questions made her uncomfortable but she answered them anyway. She felt since she didn't sign her name to the surveys that her answers were truly anonymous. However, every ipad is numbered (to prevent loss or theft) and each student who is assigned an ipad from the district is matched up with each ipad number, so it wasn't anonymous. These survey questions ranged from, Do you believe in God? to, What political party do you most closely align yourself with? There were also questions about abortion, gay marriage and gun rights. These questions were asked of her individually and also asked about her family. These questions should not have been asked as they violate her 4th amendment rights.

When I went on line to print out these questions, after I had contacted the teacher responsible, they had been deleted. It took her 2 days to respond back and her answer was unsatisfactory.

Since her answer was so vague I took my concerns to the Central York School District School Board Meeting. They were shocked and said they would get me an answer. The Assistant Superintendent did get me an answer but the questions were still invasive and clearly not necessary.

The 2nd incident occurred in geometry. She explained that her teacher doesn't actually teach in class. The students are divided up into groups of 4 from day one and as the teacher gets a sense if who the better performing students are she puts them in groups with those who are struggling. The students in the groups are responsible for teaching their peers. The teacher will answer questions if necessary. For the team math test she explained that all of the students in the group are supposed to do their own test and hand them in. The teacher pulls one test from the group to grade. She didn't want her GPA to suffer so she took the test and let the other students copy from it. Who does this serve? It teaches the students who have difficulty in math to cheat to get ahead and get passed onto the next grade off someone else's work.

I took this incident to the CYSD board as well and the teacher called me. The Board insisted that they didn't know of this practice but when I talked with the teacher she informed me that she was INSTRUCTED by the district to "teach" class this way.

Not long ago I, along with other members of the 9-12 Education Committee, had a meeting with the PA Education Secretary to get some answers. She informed us that the State is not mandating these practices, but for some reason that gets a little murky, as they are required to follow the federal guidelines since they have accepted federal money. The CYSD Board says their direction comes directly from the state.

Every time we try to get answers we are being pointed in a different direction and the standards are still being implemented. I think it would be in the best interest of the IRRRC and the Commonwealth to detach itself from all federal money, so we are not required to follow what are federal guidelines. What keeps getting lost here is that our schools are funded 100% from taxpayers. Why don't we have a voice in these standards? It is our money that is being spent to put these standards in place.

In conclusion Acting Secretary Carolyn Dumaresque said in previous testimony, "these standards are the floor." I think most parents would agree that they want their child to reach for the ceiling, not the floor.

Sincerely,
Heidi Bashen

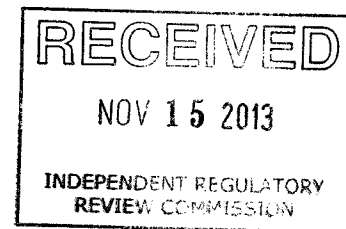
Sent from my iPad

Cooper, Kathy

From: chasbeatty@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 9:56 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone/Common Core
Attachments: CC LETTER IRRRC 11-14-2013.doc

Please consider the attached comments on future of education in PA as you deliberate the Keystone and Common Core.

Charles Beatty
School Director



David Sumner, Executive Director
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, Pa. 17101

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Mr. Sumner,

As a School Director I am keenly aware of the issues that the federal government or the state government pass on down to the schools and the effort it takes to comply. The Common Core (CC) is by far the most onerous and untested program that I have seen. Below are the issues I see with the CC that causes one to take pause as to the breadth of this program and what it means to Pennsylvania and the Country.

Local Control: CC effectively takes away of local control of education from the state, schools districts and parents throughout America. This is completely against the 10th amendment in the Bill of Rights of our constitution.

Unfunded: The fact that this is an un-funded mandate from the federal as well as our own state government. The PA Dept. of Education (DOE) originally projected it would cost school districts in the state 2.6 billion to comply and now they say there would be no additional costs. They still refuse to answer any question on this sudden change.

Over Testing: Just for example the administering of the test costs a lot and if the child does not pass the Keystone exam the first time they are allowed to take the test 2 more times to pass. To do this they must be given remediation (tutoring) by a teacher to assist them in passing the test. If they still do not pass the test then have to do a special project with a teacher to graduate. All this costs money. The DOE still refuses to answer the requests for the costs of this and other information from the Senate Education Committee.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." William Butler Yeats

What is the purpose of education? "Is it to fill the bucket or to light the fire?" "fill the bucket" = teaching to the test. The students are now over tested and with CC there will be even more high stakes tests for graduation and graduation will determined not by your local teachers and administration but by some bureaucrat in the government. Schools would not only be wasting money giving the tests and 10-20 days preparing the children for the tests. This is losing valuable time they could be actually teaching...."lighting of a fire".

The other CC issues are that it was a totally ***untested program*** that has ***lower standards*** than our schools in Chester County already have. At best the CC should be left to local schools to decide if they want it or not.

The State and Federal ***Longitudinal databases*** that would have all your child's records from kindergarten through entering the job force (P-20) and due to recent changes in the FERPA (secrecy) regulations for your child's school records, ***the government can release your child's confidential records without your permission*** to any agency or business they deem appropriate.

Please do not recommend moving forward with this program. This is not the right one for PA and our children.

Sincerely,

Charles Beatty
School Director
Avon Grove School District

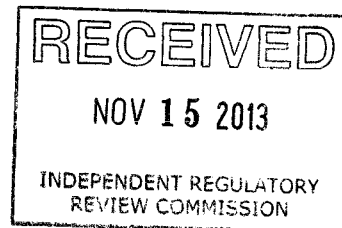
2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: McDonough, Rev. James P. <jmcdonough@diopitt.org>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:50 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: I am against Common Core

I am against Common Core because it is a one size fits all standard for children, contains inappropriate lessons. Each day, more examples are brought to the nation's attention for questionable content with regards to age appropriateness, clarity and content of the assignment, political indoctrination, and social morality.

James McDonough

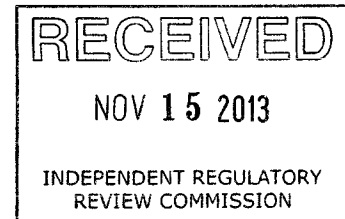


Cooper, Kathy

From: Powell, Joanne <Joanne.Powell@dechert.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 3:56 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

I vehemently oppose the rule of Keystone Exams as prerequisite to high school graduation.

Joanne Powell
Dechert LLP
Cira Centre
2929 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2808
Telephone: 215.994.2457
Fax: 215.994.2222
Email: joanne.powell@dechert.com



This e-mail is from Dechert LLP, a law firm, and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, do not read, copy or distribute the e-mail or any attachments. Instead, please notify the sender and delete the e-mail and any attachments. Thank you.

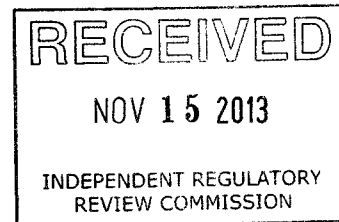
Cooper, Kathy

From: Laurie & Doug <dlynch3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:11 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: no to the keystones

Dear Mr. Sumner-

Pleas vote "NO" to the Keystone graduation exams. There needs to be a better way. I agree with much of what Senator Andy Dinniman wrote in regards to the Keystones. I have two 10th grade daughters who are exceptional students. They have taken 2 out of the 3 Keystones and have done well on them. However, they have friends who are still above average students, who have not faired as well- some needing to take a "review" class. Without state funding for these remediation classes, yet more programs will be cut; the vicious cycle will continue. Not everyone needs to be proficient or advanced in biology to go to college and/or be a productive member of society. Please reject the Keystone Graduation Exams as part of the proposed Chapter 4 Final-Form Regulations.

Thank you-
Laurie Lynch
135 Polar Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073

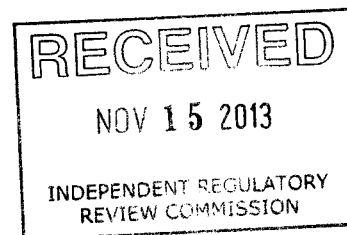


Cooper, Kathy

From: bandsbil@verizon.net
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:21 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com; repdelissio@pahouse.net
Subject: Re: No on Chapter 4 regulations (Keystones)

Please reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations and VOTE NO on November 21. I am opposed to having the Keystone Exams being tied to a student's high school graduation.

Barbara Billings
Haverford, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Maria Luby <mmluby@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:11 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Vote No!

Mr. Sumner,

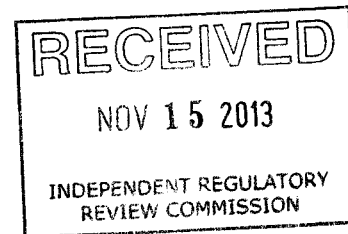
Please vote no on chp4 regulations regarding keystone exams.

I have 4 school aged boys and no not think this approach will benefit school children.

Thanks

Maria Luby
LMSD parent

Sent from my iPhone

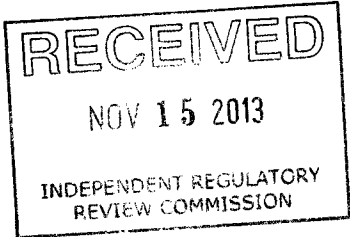


Cooper, Kathy

From: Teresa Appleby <tappleby@mnsd.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:38 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Tests

Dear Mr. Sumner,
My husband and I are very much opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exams for all the reasons cited by State Senator Andrew Dinneman. We want the IRRC to reject the Keystone Graduation Exams as part of the proposed Chapter 4 Final-Form Regulations.

Tim and Teresa Appleby
16 Grove Lane
Broomall, PA 19008



Cooper, Kathy

From: myagentmartha@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:43 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams-Oppose

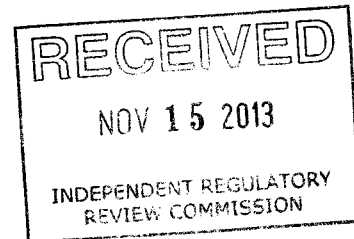
David,

I want to be on record that I oppose the Keystone Exams.

Sincerely,
Martha Dahan

Martha Dahan, Realtor
Weichert Realtors
93 Old York Rd
Jenkintown, PA 19046
(215) 885-8100 ext 191
(215) 885-3834 Fax
(215)292-6654 Cell

PA Lic.# RS-275641
Weichert Realtors Director's Club
Philadelphia Magazine's 2012 Five Star Real Estate Agent
Dedication. Performance. Service.
myagentmartha@comcast.net



Cooper, Kathy

From: Doug Dubrosky Gmail <doug.dubrosky@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:01 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: Jennifer Lewandowski
Subject: Opposition to Chapter 4 regs keystone exams as graduation requirement

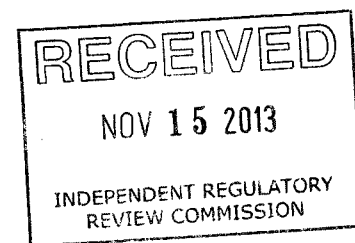
Mr. Sumner,

I am opposed to the Chapter 4 regulations that require Keystone exams as a graduation requirement. I also agree with the points raised in the recent Superintendents letter.

Thanks,

Doug Dubrosky
200 Jefferson street
Bala cynwyd, pa 19004

Sent from my iPhone



Cooper, Kathy

From: Susie Shah <susieshah2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:32 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exams

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to regarding the new policy implemented in PA to require students to pass several Keystone exams prior to graduation.

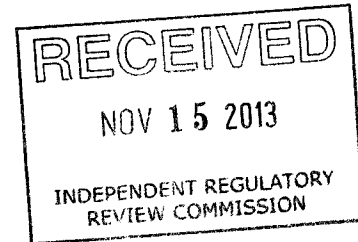
I am OPPOSED to the new legislation as some students do better in practical exams and not a cumulative exam. Having to pass a standardized test as a requirement doesn't serve the student. I believe as long as they pass the classes they are enrolled in there shouldn't be a long complicated Keystone exam to deal with.

I do hope my opinion will make a difference.

Thank you
Susie Shah

--

Susie Shah



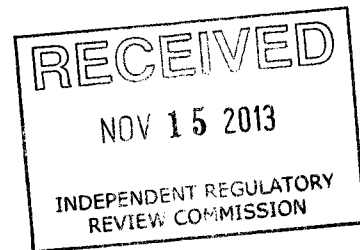
Cooper, Kathy

From: Steven Handleman <shandleman@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 4:54 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exam Requirements

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am the parent of a tenth grader at Lower Merion High School in Ardmore, PA and of a Lower Merion graduate now attending the University of Maryland. I am joining the fifty five school superintendents who have contacted you in opposition to your commission's plan to require Keystone Exams for students' graduation. I hope you will follow their recommendation **not to require Keystone Exams for graduation in Pennsylvania.**

Thank you for your consideration,
Steven Handleman
Bala Cynwyd, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Andrew <yrrrema@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:14 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exams

I do not support requiring keystone exams as a condition of high school graduation. Standardized testing has not been shown to improve student aptitude or build skills. The last thing these over programmed kids need are more of these tests.

Andrew
Sent from my iPhone



Cooper, Kathy

From: Julie Peterson <juliepeterson@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:32 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Chapter 4 regulations

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am a concerned tax payer and mother of two. Let the record show my request to reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. Keystone exams and Common Core standards should not be tied together and are BOTH an assault to critical thinking and creative problem solving in our educational system.

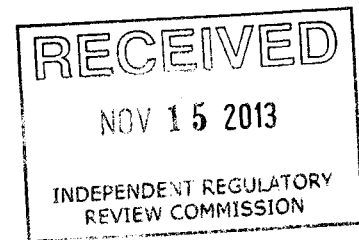
Mandated unfunded regulations like these are undemocratic. This is not how I want my tax dollars spent. \$65 million dollars to tell my son he understands content that he already demonstrated mastery of when he passed the class is a waste of my money and his time.

The state should be a better steward of our resources using that money wisely to fund quality public education for all. It is shameful to see this regulation proposal when Philadelphia public schools are losing nurses, counselors and teachers, and find themselves lacking books, folders, pens, paper, staplers, pencil sharpeners, or notebooks.

The entire high stakes testing movement is getting dangerously out of hand. Please take a good look at what concerned citizens are saying across the country. Let educators educate. Let politicians advocate for better education by supporting our educational system in a functional way. Use funds wisely. Educate yourself before you jump on the testing data bandwagon developed by publishing companies that make a mighty profit from your mandates at a cost to our children that is not only measured monetarily, but intellectually. You owe it to our youth, to give them the gift of time to apply their efforts to improvement not regurgitation.

What our country needs right now are graduates that have developed critical thinking skills and creative thought processes to deal with the rapidly, ever-changing world we live in. High stakes tests do not foster those skills and cannot measure them. High stakes, indeed, the stakes couldn't be higher.

Julie Peterson
119 E. Athens Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
juliepeterson@verizon.net

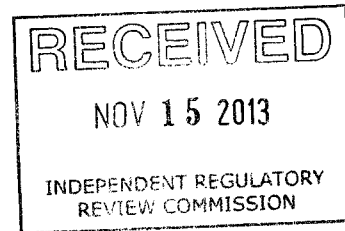


Cooper, Kathy

From: Lori Romano <romano406@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:33 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

Dear representative,
I am addressing my concern as a parent of a child in the lower merion school district in Pa. I am opposed to the keystone exams as a graduation requirement. And strongly hope that my voice is heard!
Thank you!
Lori Romano-Lehr

Sent from my iPhone



Cooper, Kathy

From: Aryana Shah <aryanashah@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:40 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

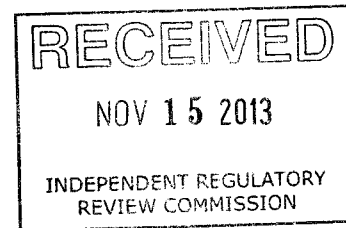
Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to the new law requiring the students to pass the Keystone exams prior to graduation.

Students are working hard to do well in school, and adding a standardized exam as an additional need is not appropriate.

Thanks
Arya Shah

--
Aryana Shah



"Everyone smiles in the same language."

Cooper, Kathy

From: Laura Berkowitz <lorelei27@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:51 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Opposing Keystone Examinations

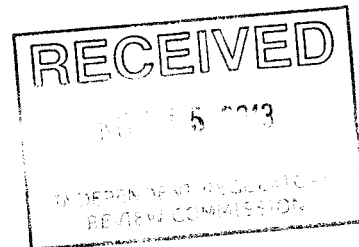
Dear Director Sumner:

I am writing to voice my opposition to having passage of the Keystone examinations added as graduation requirements for students in Pennsylvania.

Adding more testing to already over-stressed and over-tested students at the high school level is not the best way to assess the state curricula in the subjects being tested. All the imposition of additional tests will happen is what is happening in other states: namely, teaching to the test and wasting precious classroom time that could be better spent on other lessons. Moreover, there are many other kinds of tests that assess readiness for college; there is really no need to force this issue. Moreover, for those students who do not plan on attending college, these tests would be neither appropriate or necessary.

Assess the success of your teachers and the curriculum in a way that does not involve adding yet another set of tests for students, many of whom are already taxed in terms of the time they spend studying, taking tests, performing community service, engaging in extra-curricular activities and preparing college applications.

Sincerely,
Laura Berkowitz



Cooper, Kathy

From: Avi J. Shah <avishah20@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:36 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: PA requirement for Keystone

Mr. Sumner,

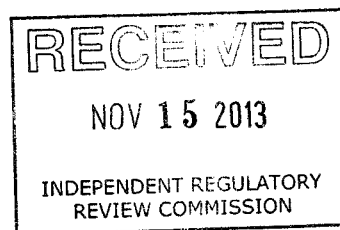
I am writing to you to let you know that I am **opposed** to the new legislation requiring that students pass the Keystone exams prior to graduation.

Thank you
Avi Shah

--

Avi J. Shah

" Always follow your heart, and don't give up your dreams." :)



Cooper, Kathy

From: Wendy Kaiser <kaiserphl@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:42 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exam Testing

I am writing to express my support of my school district's position (Lower Merion) regarding additional Keystone testing.

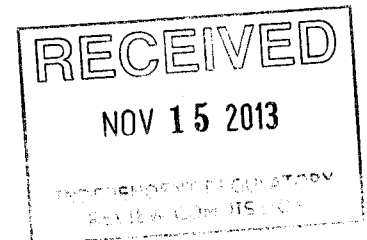
I DISAGREE IN THE STRONGEST TERMS with more testing and less teaching. I believe there is so much testing, learning is greatly compromised. We need to give teachers time to teach and spend less time on achieving high test scores. I believe we need to work on education not additional measurement.

I am satisfied that my school district has the best interests of my children at heart and have considerably less faith in state and government officials to gauge what is right for my family and their future.

Thank you.

Wendy Kaiser

--
(610) 574-1244
twitter: @wendykphl
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/wendy-kaiser/5/76b/8b9>



Cooper, Kathy

From: Susie Shah <susieshah@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:05 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: keystone exams

Mr. Sumner,

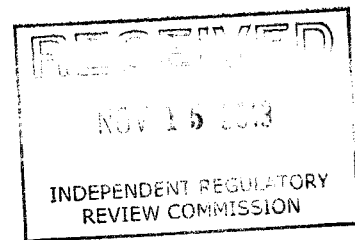
I have a child in the Lower Merion school district who has a significant learning disability. Because of the wonderful opportunity and guidance in the district, she has been able to have the proper education to learn all the academic skills needed.

I do not believe that implementing a law that requires students to pass a set of Keystone exams prior to graduation will work for so many students. I know that with the education provided to my child, she will succeed in passing all of her required classes and go on to a higher education.

Having a standardized test for kids with an IEP defeats the purpose in my opinion.

Please know that I am highly opposed to the legislation requiring the Keystones for graduation.

Thank you
Dr. S. J. Shah



Cooper, Kathy

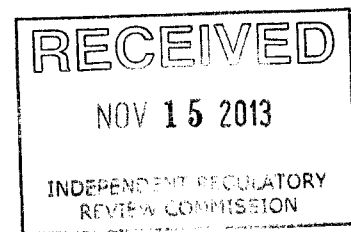
From: Mary Ann Settembrino <masacu@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:37 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exam requirement

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the requiring of the keystone exam for graduation. There has been an epidemic increase in the number of standardized tests required in our state. I have had the privilege of having a child in Lower Merion School district since 1991. From then until now the number of tests administered to students from first grade through twelfth has more than quadrupled. In one year alone my son was required to take six standardized tests. This is an assault on our educational system and deprives the students to a real education. Most of the teachers time is spent on test prep and administration. Isn't there some sort of law guaranteeing a fare and appropriate education for all children? If they are taking tests, they are being deprived of an opportunity to learn. The more testing, the less teaching. The less teaching, the less learning.

". . . [Of course it's possible to] succeed in raising average test scores. You deprive kids of recess, eliminate music and the arts, cut back the class meetings and discussions of current events, offer less time to read books for pleasure, squeeze out the field trips and interdisciplinary projects and high-quality electives, spend enough time teaching test-taking tricks, and, you bet, it's possible to raise the scores. But that result is meaningless at best. When a school or district reports better test results this year than last, knowledgeable parents and other observers respond by saying, "So what?" (because higher test scores do not necessarily reflect higher quality teaching and learning) – or even, "Uh-oh" (because higher test scores may indicate *lower* quality teaching and learning)."

Alfie Kohn-- "Standardized Testing: Separating Wheat Children from Chaff Children"

Mary Ann Settembrino
masacu@aol.com

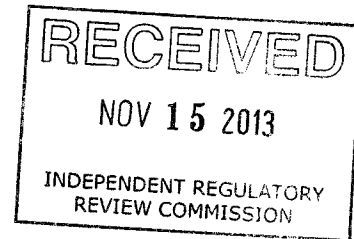


Cooper, Kathy

From: Tracy Coyle <carrtr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:54 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Opposition

We are opposed to the Regulations and are urging the IRRC and General Assembly not to require Keystone exams as graduation requirements.

Tracy and Marty Coyle
Lower Merion

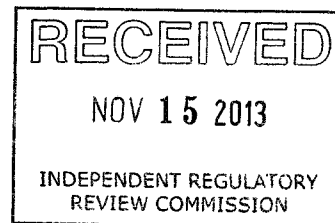


Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:22 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website



First Name: Carolyn

Last Name: Russo

City/State: Coopersburg, PA

Email: baydawn@ptd.net

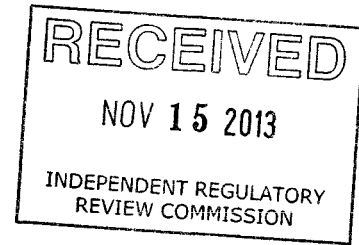
Subject: Title 22 Education chapter 4

Message:

I encourage approval of the proposed revisions to Title 22. Education Chapter 4. Academic Standards and Assessment test. My son took the test on the assumption that he just needed to pass and that it would not be part of his final grade. This is not fair to the students GPA when applying for colleges. Please approve these revisions. Not fair to change the game after the final score. Thanks Carolyn

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:57 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Clare

Last Name: Donato

City/State: Coopersburg, PA

Email: claredonato@gmail.com

Subject: Title 22 Education - Chapter 4

Message:

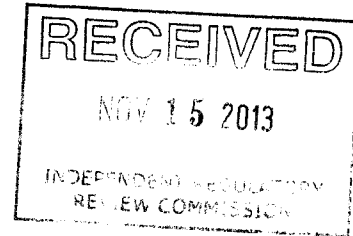
Requesting that consideration be made towards the approval of the proposed revisions to TITLE 22. EDUCATION - CHAPTER 4. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT. Students who have already taken the Keystones were given no notification that scores would be counting towards 1/3 of their final grade in a course.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 7:54 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website



First Name: Andrew

Last Name: Hall

City/State: Coopersburg, PA

Email: thehalls@epix.net

Subject: TITLE 22. EDUCATION - CHAPTER 4. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Message:

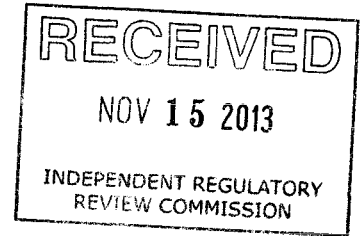
I strongly encourage you to approve the proposed revisions for TITLE 22. EDUCATION - CHAPTER 4. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 9:08 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website



First Name: Moss

Last Name: Jacobson

City/State: ,

Email: mossbmw@yahoo.com

Subject: Common Core State Standards

Message:

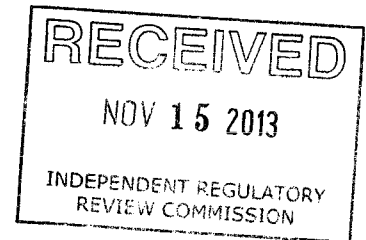
Common Core State Standards (CCSS) has been masked as "standards" so as not to have to undergo the legally required evaluation, legislation and parental notification for changes to curriculum. This is in violation of the law of the Commonwealth. CCSS is clearly educational malpractice. Many notable educators have studied CCSS and conclude that it is a step backwards in the education of our children. None of the Common Core experimental approaches were ever tested and after implementation, reading and math proficiency has dropped significantly in many areas of the U.S. All of these coupled with CCSS data mining puts at risk the wellness of the citizens of the Commonwealth of PA. CCSS should be outlawed in PA and immediately stripped from ALL school curriculum.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:08 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website



First Name: LAWRENCE

Last Name: LYONS M.D.

City/State: IRWIN, PA

Email: larryl1333@comcast.net

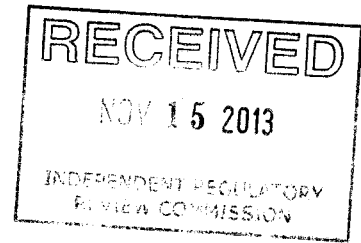
Subject: stop common core

Message:

I HAVE SEEN FIRST HAND THE SUB-PAR CLASS ROOM INFORMATION THAT WILL BE TAUGHT IN THE SCHOOLS IF THIS SCHEME IS PERPETRATED. JUST THE HANDLING OF AMERICAN HISTORY AS WELL AS MATH LEAVES ME ALMOST BUMDFOUNDED AS TO ITS SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR STUDY NOT TO MENTION THE GROSS LACK OF TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECTS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION THEREOF. MY ADVICE WOULD BE TO SCRAP THE WHOLE CONCEPT AS EDUCATIONAL TRIPE.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 9:26 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Marie

Last Name: Sargent

City/State: Center Valley, PA

Email: marieksargent@hotmail.com

Subject: Title 22, Chapter 4

Message:

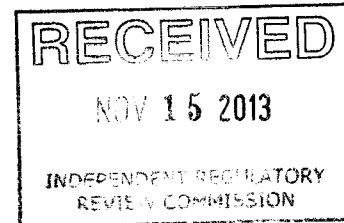
I am opposed to the current criteria for Title 22, Chapter 4. I vote for approval of the Revisions to Chapter 4.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:27 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website



First Name: Sandra

Last Name: Moyer

City/State: Coopersburg, Pennsylvania

Email: sandymoyer3@gmail.com

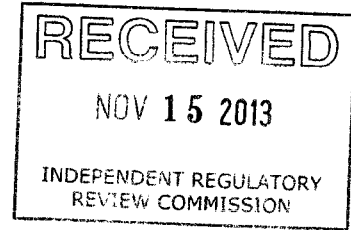
Subject: Chapter 4 Revisions

Message:

I encourage you to approve the proposed revisions to TITLE 22. EDUCATION - CHAPTER 4. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 9:32 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Marie

Last Name: Sargent

City/State: Center Valley, PA

Email: marieksargent@hotmail.com

Subject: Title 22, Chapter 4

Message:

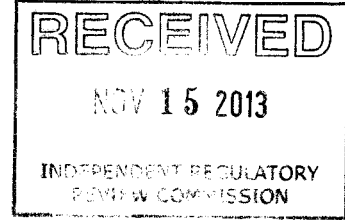
I am opposed to the current criteria for Title 22, Chapter 4. I vote for approval of the Revisions to Chapter 4.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:49 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website



First Name: Amy

Last Name: Bausher

City/State: ,

Email: baushera@slds.org

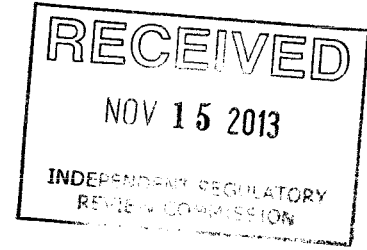
Subject: Approve revisions

Message:

Please approve the proposed revisions to TITLE 22. EDUCATION - CHAPTER 4. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT. Thank you.

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:39 AM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Judith

Last Name: Zinman

City/State: Center Valley, PA

Email: judithzinman@gmail.com

Subject: proposed revisions to Title 22

Message:

I encourage the approval of the proposed revisions to TITLE 22.EDUCATION-CHAPTER 4.ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Cooper, Kathy

From: MaureenSiobhan@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:57 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: "Regulation #6 – 326: Academic Standards and Assessment and IRRC # 2976."

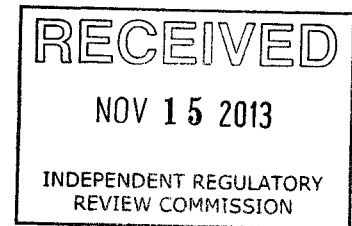
I am opposed to common core. It is obviously a way not to educate a child. The content is immoral, does not teach basic skills. It actually goes back to adding math in a way that was needed with Roman numerals. Cursive is dropped. How are children going to read script? It is everywhere. No child learns skills at the same time on the exact day in the exact moment as every other child in the country let alone the world, since you call this an international program with international benchmarks.

Obviously the agenda is not to educate our children to be the best they can be but to make them uniform with other countries to bring about more international control. That is unacceptable. Our children are not robots.

The federal government has no right to set the agenda for our education by taking our tax money and telling our states they will not get it unless they implement this horror of an education pedagogue. You failed with no child left behind, you will fail with this.

Regards,

Maureen Sungenis



Cooper, Kathy

From: mhelminska@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:51 AM
To: David Sumner
Cc: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com; repdelissio@pahouse.net
Subject: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations/Keystone Exams

TO: dsumner@irrc.state.pa.us

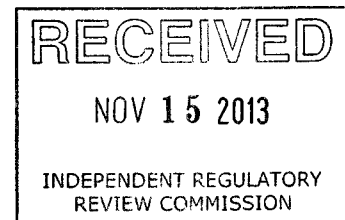
CC: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com; repdelissio@pahouse.net

SUBJECT: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

I strongly oppose the Keystone Exams being tied to a student's high school graduation. I am asking you to REJECT the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. I urge you to VOTE NO on November 21st.

Respectfully,

Margaret Helminska
117 S. Valley Road
Paoli PA 19301



Cooper, Kathy

From: marysburk@netscape.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:03 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Common Core

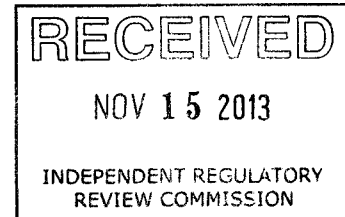
Dear Sirs:

My main concern for the standards curriculum and everything that Common Core encompasses is the fact that this is an unfunded mandate. Money was given to the states, by the federal govt. to implement Common Core.

This money will not last. In order to keep up with the technology and changing of the curriculum , the schooling for those who will teach , the technology for the programs, etc. where is Pennsylvania getting the money to continue? We already have a \$65 billion increase coming in the state employees pension fund. We, as citizens can not make these increases through taxes. it is estimated that by 2019, the property tax will increase all over the state by 30%.

Thank you,

Mary Burkholder
1760 Blakewood Drive
Chambersburg, Pa. 1760



Cooper, Kathy

From: Edie Landis <edie.landis@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:10 AM
To: David Sumner; pclymer@pahousegop.com; Governor@pa.gov
Cc: bcutler@pahousegop.com
Subject: common core, irrc 2976

Hello everyone,

Just wanted to voice my irritation with the recent Keystone Standards now being implemented in PA.

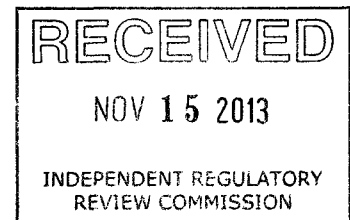
I am sick and tired of busy-bodies from the Federal Government and other States telling me they know what's best for my child and the children who live in Lancaster County PA.

The reality of these standards is that they force teachers to teach to a test. Period. I want my child to learn...learning is using your brain to think and figure things out, not memorize data and facts that some unknown entity declares are "important" so they can pass a test.

My husband and I have 4 children. Two are college graduates. One is a sophomore in college. Our youngest is in 10th grade and is being homeschooled. He is learning what he needs to know to be successful in life. He will definitely not return to the public school system under the present teaching standards as they do not provide the necessary foundation for a successful future.

Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Edie Landis
Strasburg PA



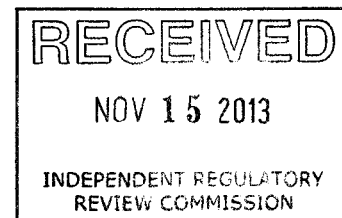
Cooper, Kathy

From: THOMAS ROBERTS <readerroberts@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:46 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exams
Attachments: Chrisine Roberts IRRC Letter.docx

Please read my attached letter requesting you reject the Chapter 4 proposed regulations.

Thank you,

Christine Roberts
449 Glen Mills Road
Thornton, PA 19373



Cooper, Kathy

From: Alexia Chororos <achororos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:05 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I have two children who attend school in the Lower Merion School District. I am very disturbed to hear that the state is considering adding more Keystone Exams as a requirement for graduation. I am not in support of this measure. I urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the General Assembly not to require Keystone Exams as graduation requirements. The children are already subjected to an undue amount of standardized testing that takes the place of actual instruction and learning time.

Sincerely,

Alexia Chororos
610-664-3125



Cooper, Kathy

From: Hallee Adelman <hallee@adelmans.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:22 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Testing concerns

Dear Mr. Sumner,

As a parent of school-aged children in the Lower Merion School District, I am concerned about the Keystone testing. While I appreciate the State's efforts, teaching the "whole child" is more important than teachers feeling the need to teach to a test.

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss further or if there is someone else I should also be communicating with.

Thanks so much,
Hallee Adelman

Sent from my iPhone

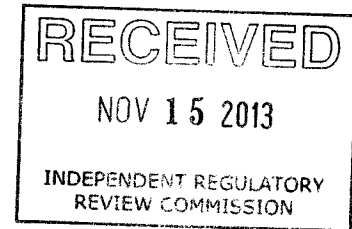


Cooper, Kathy

From: Karen Kessler <karenzkessler@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:49 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: keystone testing

against keystone testing!

k. kessler



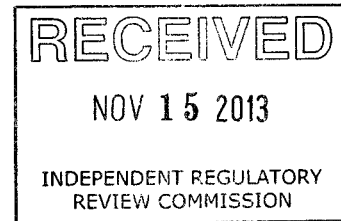
Cooper, Kathy

From: Nancy Smith <smithzeus@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:06 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Ref # IRRC 2976

Dear Mr. Sumner,

Please vote against the PA Core Standards. Instituting it would be expensive and fiscally irresponsible in the current conditions of the state economy and in the school districts which are already suffering under increasing costs, not to mention what it will do to taxpayers, especially older adults, like my husband and I. That added to the fact that it might lower the academic standards for students across Pennsylvania by using a program which is untested and would involve the federal government in state education to a larger degree makes me feel that this isn't the time to add such a program. Please consider these thoughts before adding another burden to our overburdened state debt.

Thank you, Nancy Smith



Cooper, Kathy

From: dconnellys@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:29 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRC No. 2976

Good Day Mr. Sumner,

I am very concerned about the implimentation of the PA Common Core Standards. I am requesting that these standards be placed ON HOLD at this time. Some of my concerns are:

The cost is a great concern to start. There is no complete fiscal analysis that has been presented at this time to the state legislators by the PA Department of Education.

Where will we get the money to cover the cost of this new plan? Many people are losing jobs or having their work day shorten. My daughter works for a company that has been laying off people every 3 months and the amount of the lay-offs is getting larger each time. We have many seniors in this state so where will they get the money to support this plan?

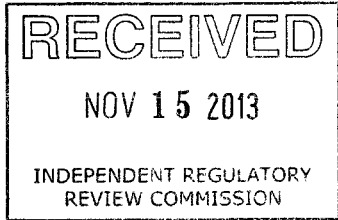
This is an unfunded mandate. Why would this state want to take on another program that is unfunded? Again, where will you get the money. The citizens are taxed too much as it is now.

Why is this being force on every school district in Pennsylvania? The program is untested. Outcome-Based education was tried in the past and it failed. Why try another program that most likely will fail, again? Using the scientific method I was taught in a **non-Common Core** school: a question is asked, research is done, a hypothesis is formed, an experiment is done (multiple times to assure correct/consistent results), analysis is done and conclusions are drawn, and lastly the results are shared with the community. A theory, "Common Core will better educate the children," has been established, but has there been any research? Any experiment, testing, or evaluation to **VALIDATE** this claim? No, so prove Common Core's value by testing it with students. Again as I was taught in a non-Common Core learning environment- compare the students taught with Common Core (the experimental group) against our non-Common Core taught students (the control group).

Do not force this unvalidated program on our children, our future. Show us the results that it is better, or even just worthwhile considering, and let us, the parents and constituents, decide if we want this for our children.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maryanna Connelly
824 Crescent Drive
Glenolden, PA 19036



Cooper, Kathy

From: Jay Hunter <JHunter@horizonsignal.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:27 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Proposed Keystone Graduation Exams

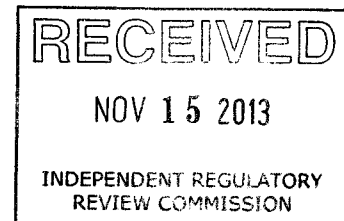
Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to express my hope that you will reject the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. I believe having more testing to determine how our children are doing and if they graduate is not beneficial to anyone. I have (3) young boys that have started going through the PA public school system and I don't believe this measure will help them at all in their education. I have witnessed the testing that already takes place and I find it hard to really see the benefit of what is in place now. Adding more testing, I believe, is not the right path to take in improving our children's education.

I am not an expert in this matter by any means but I do disagree with this measure and I hope you will reject it when it comes to a vote.

Thanks= you for your time.

Jay Hunter
Horizon Signal Technologies, Inc.
C/610.226.7598 F/717.336.8824
www.horizonsignal.com



Cooper, Kathy

From: John And Magy Comeaux <comeauxfamily@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:10 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRc no. 2976

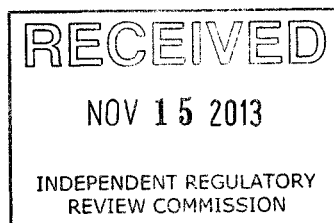
David Summer,

Please consider the cost on the taxpayers if common core gets fully accepted. Who else would fund it? Why take candy with strings attached? Not even a child would do that!

School districts are already strapped and are financially in short, why load on additions. In short this is hurting our children in many ways especially in the public school that have been above average. It only benefits the lower city schools to standardize education.

Please fight against IRRc no. 2976 it is for our next generation.

Thanks and blessings. The Comeaux Family



Cooper, Kathy

From: J&L McHale <JayandLisa.McHale@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:16 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Re: IRRC No. 2976/Testimonial Against the PA Common Core

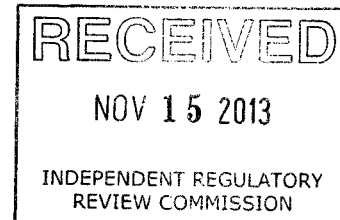
Re: IRRC No. 2976

Dr. Mr. Sumner,

As a Parent, Taxpayer, Voter and American I oppose the Common Core. I urge you to repeal and defund any initiatives of the Common Core Standards by the State of Pennsylvania. Not only is PA is facing sever budgetary problems and an exploding pension crisis but so are individual families and businesses. Families and businesses are strapped and have been taxed enough already!

Please repeal and/or defund this Unconstitutional mandate that was never voted on by legislation.

Sincerely,
The McHale Family
Collegeville, PA



Cooper, Kathy

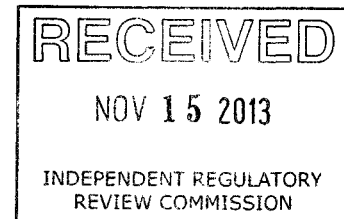
From: Rebecca Haverly <bhaverly7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:37 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Common Core

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am distressed that Pennsylvania is seriously considering adopting the Common Core for the school systems. One would think that politicians would learn from their mistakes. Look at Obamacare. This bill was passed without full understanding of its impact on the American people. It is not entirely funded. Now the State is proposing to do the same thing to our education system. The Common Core is not funded fully and it will be adding a strain on our already financially strapped school districts. The economy is suffering in Erie and raising our taxes will not help. The Common Core curriculum has not been tested and the results of its success are unknown. I have questioned teachers about the proposed curriculum changes and even they do not know what the new curriculum will be. Please let our schools operate using their own standards and DO NOT let the Federal Government take over our school systems. Sometimes it seems that people have totally lost their common sense and blindly follow the leaders. Do not approve Common Core for Pennsylvania!

Thank you.

Rebecca Haverly



Cooper, Kathy

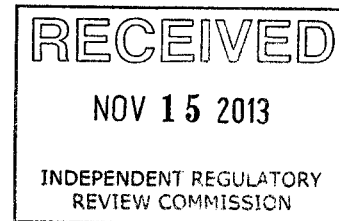
From: Michael L. Riesenbach <MRiesenbach@kmco.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:14 AM
To: David Sumner
Cc: Susan Riesenbach
Subject: Keystone Exams

Mr. Sumner:

I am a parent of four children in the Lower Merion School District. As you are aware, students have a rigorous schedule during their school years with many projects, exams and homework requirements. I think it is ridiculous that the state is now going to put this extra burden on them with the requirement of passing the Keystone Exams in order to graduate from High School. Isn't it enough to have them complete the coursework that is required of them, in addition to SAT/ACT preparation and college applications? If the student is not completing the assignments or studying enough to pass a class, then the failing grade should be what doesn't allow them to graduate. These students have enough stress on them, they certainly don't need any more and these Keystone Exams will add NO value to their high school experience. Please eliminate the graduation requirement on 11/21/13. Thank you.

Regards,

Michael L. Riesenbach, CPA
Director, Internal Operations
mriesenbach@kmco.com
Kreischer Miller
100 Witmer Road
Suite 350
Horsham, PA 19044-2369
t (215) 441-4600 ext.108
dd (215) 734-1603
f (215) 734-1604
www.kmco.com



This electronic mail message contains confidential information which is legally privileged and intended only for the use of the recipient named above. We request immediate notification by return email to returnmail@kmco.com of misrouted emails so that we can correct the error and request that you destroy all copies of this misrouted email. If you received this email in error, you are hereby notified that any copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance of the contents of this electronic message is strictly prohibited.

Disclaimer: IRS Treasury Regulations require us to inform you that any tax advice contained in the body of this communication (including any attachments) was not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, by the recipient for the purpose of (i) avoiding penalties that may be imposed under the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

Cooper, Kathy

From: Jye Bardley <jyenar@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:23 AM
To: David Sumner; pclymer@pahousegop.com; Governor@pa.gov;
henglish@pahousegop.com
Subject: Common Core

Gentlemen,

I would like to express my opposition to the implementation of the Common Core/Pa Core Standards.

This is obviously going to have a financial impact on this state, it is unclear the end cost of implementing this program. It is also unclear how the state will be financing this program. New taxes? No thank you. There has been enough tax burdens placed on the citizens in the past 5 years.

I am also concerned with the itinerary. I'm sure this would improve schools that are under performing, But, what of those schools that are excelling? We have seen time and again the ill effects of one size fits all legislation.

Please, I respectfully ask you to appose the implementation of Common Core/PA Core Standards.

Regards,

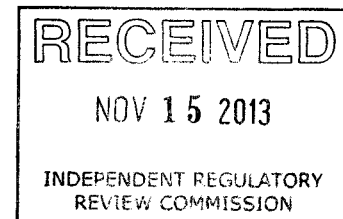
Brad and Natalie Hess
Hampton Twp., PA 15101



Cooper, Kathy

From: banks linda <lindadbanks@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:00 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

Please log in my response **AGAINST** these exams. As a former teacher, parent, taxpayer and resident of our future state . . . I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** the implementation of these exams. Whatever money has already been spent (just call it another government oops in pursuit of a solution) is gone. Don't throw more potentially good money after it. **THANK YOU.**



Cooper, Kathy

From: Steve Eisenstein <seisenstein@ert.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:15 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exams

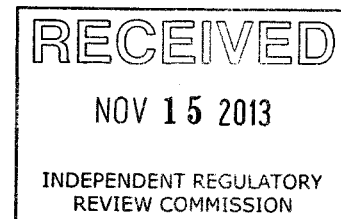
Mr. David Sumner
Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Dear Mr. Sumner:

I am writing to express my opposition to requiring the Keystone exams as a graduation requirement. I feel that standardized testing in general is completely out of control. The number of days wasted in preparation for, and in the actual taking of, all of these tests is time that could be better spent providing our children with an actual education. Cramming for standardized testing is not learning, it does not enrich a child's knowledge, teach him how to think, be analytical, research or any of the other fundamental needs required to succeed. And no matter how it is presented to them, they all know that the only reason they are taking them is because some politician pushed for it to show they are trying to improve education. It is lazy and deceitful to require these exams instead of doing the hard work and actually analyzing the public school systems, determining what works and what doesn't, arriving at a reasonable blueprint, and implementing the blueprint in schools that are adequately funded. Please do not require Keystone (or any other standardized) exams as a graduation requirement and encourage our legislators spend their time in a more meaningful way to truly improve our children's' education. Thank you.

Steve Eisenstein
36 Chestnut Ave
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Notice: This e-mail message, together with any attachments, contains information of ERT that may be confidential, proprietary copyrighted and/or legally privileged, and is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity named on this message. If you are not the intended recipient, and have received this message in error, please immediately return this by e-mail and then delete it.



Cooper, Kathy

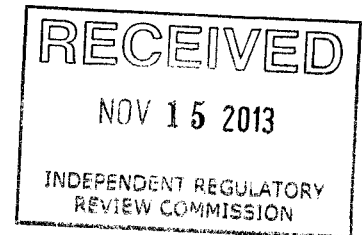
From: Tracie Bard <traciebard@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:28 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: STop the Common Core Standards

Please stop these standards. They are expensive and no research has been done to support them. This will undoubtedly lead to tax increases in local districts. I don't know about you but our taxes keep going up, the price of everything keeps going up and my salary stays the same. I can't afford the tax increase necessary to fund this. Don't approve unfunded mandates! The cost of remediating and administering project based assessments to students who fail any of the three keystones that will be required for graduation beginning in 2017 will be a huge unfunded mandate for local school districts. Please stop these standards!

Our children are being forced to only work toward these standards and who cares what else they learn or if they are creative and able to problem solve on their own. Our children are already being held back by all the standards placed on them. Our children who are smart are being held back waiting for all the students in the class to catch up so that the standards can be met by everyone. My 4th grader just told me his math class spent a month on learning factors again and again because it is a "standard" that everyone has to master. My son and several other classmates had it the first lesson and now have had it again and again and again. The teacher even became frustrated one day and said we really have to all get this today because we need to move on. She as a teacher can't make the choice to move on because if her class as a whole doesn't meet these standards the school loses money. It is ridiculous. My son is who is intelligent is being dumbed down. So instead of bringing other kids up to meet the standards we are only holding back kids that should be our future leaders.

Please stop these standards.

Sincerely,
Tracie Bard



Cooper, Kathy

From: DelMonte, Thomas <t.delmonte@sap.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 12:11 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: FW: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
David Sumner, Executive Director
333 Market Street, 13th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

Hello Mr. Sumner and Review Commission

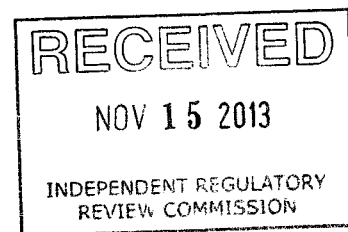
My name is Tom DelMonte and I live in Narberth, PA, part of the Lower Merion School District. As a Pennsylvania taxpayer and father of two children in the Lower Merion School District, I am writing to say I adamantly oppose the Keystone Exams being tied to a student's high school graduation. I am asking you to **REJECT the proposed Chapter 4 regulations**. I urge you to VOTE NO on November 21st.

Keystone exams are a waste of student and teacher time. Teachers should be allowed to teach material according to their school district's curriculum. Each school should be empowered to give an exam or final project that they create. It makes no sense that a child that has completed all necessary coursework and has passed the school's necessary tests/projects could then possibly not graduate from high school due to one high stake exam.

Again, I urge you to VOTE NO on November 21st.

Respectfully,

Tom DelMonte



Cooper, Kathy

From: peggywalsh@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 5:05 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exam

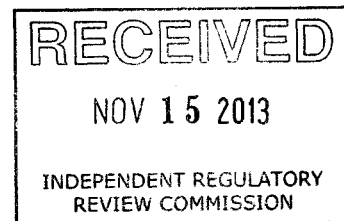
Director Sumner,

I would like to implore you and your committee to forego the continued use of the Keystone Exam for students in Pennsylvania. We have found that the excessive standardized testing that our children are subjected to hinders both the ability for their teachers to use important teaching time and takes energy and effort away from our children's ability to learn. Teaching children how to take an exam is not quality learning and gives them the message that education is about parroting rather than deeply developing an interest and a knowledge of a subject.

Please consider halting the well intentioned but ineffective use of testing in the schools.

Many thanks,

Peggy Walsh
Montgomery County, PA



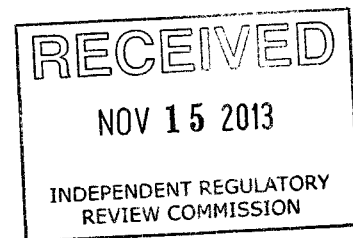
Cooper, Kathy

From: Shah, Jay H. <jay.shah@hersha.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 6:00 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: PA regulations

Mr. Sumner,

Please accept this email as my personal note to let you know that I am strictly Man to the new legislation which requires Keystone exams for graduation. Many kids have different styles of learning, and the public schools provide a wonderful education to all levels in the state. However, having one standardized format for a requirement defeats the purpose of any individualized style and ability.

Many thanks
Jay H. Shah

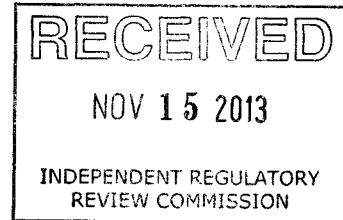


Cooper, Kathy

From: Richard Catanese <richard.catanese@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 7:10 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: No keystone exam requirement

Thanks
Richard Catanese

Sent from my iPhone



Cooper, Kathy

From: Wendy Cohen <wendy.cohen@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 7:27 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

Importance: High

Dear Mr. Sumner,

As a parent of 3 children in Lower Merion Township as well as an educator/business owner who owns and operates 2 Goddard Schools (early childhood education/preschools), I am deeply opposed and concerned about the Keystone Exams.

I don't believe that passing an end of year exam (Keystone exams) should be a requirement for graduation. One standardized test is not indicative of the education students received. Students all test differently and although a student may excel in a classroom atmosphere and have a high GPA taking honors and even AP classes, if they are a poor tester (i.e.: perhaps they didn't do well on the SAT/ACT test), then they have the potential of not doing well on the Keystone exam and then not passing the class and not graduating?

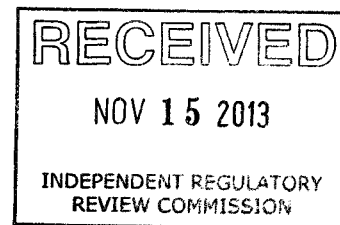
This makes no sense to me.

I hope you and your constituencies will consider the negative impact this will have not only on the students but on the educators.

Children today have enough pressures with rigor of classes, extracurricular activities, SAT/ACT scores, community service, applying to colleges, and to add one more pressure that they must pass an exam to graduate seems unreasonable and irrelevant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Cohen



Cooper, Kathy

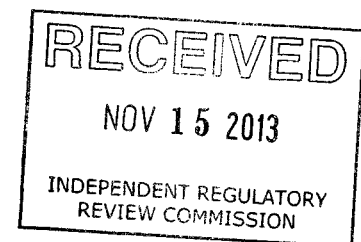
From: Henry Israeli <hisraeli@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:08 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com
Subject: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

My name is Henry Israeli, and I live in Ardmore, PA. I am writing to say I adamantly oppose the Keystone Exams being tied to a student's high school graduation. I am asking you to REJECT the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. I urge you to VOTE NO on November 21st.

Respectfully,

Henry Israeli

Henry Israeli
hisraeli@aol.com



Cooper, Kathy

From: Lisa Steinman <lisasteinman@ymail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:08 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystones

As a parent of 2 students in the Abington School District - (8th grade and 10th grade) I am writing to let you know that the Keystones are just another unnecessary test and a waste of time and money.

These children are under an enormous amount of pressure and these tests are another stress. All they do is get tested!!!

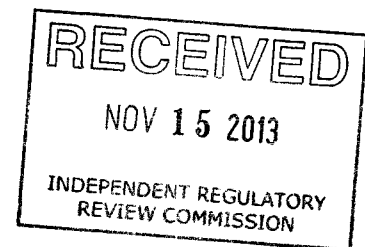
Why don't you put the money towards better teachers, better classes. New books, new computers, better tools for learning. Instead all you keep doing is adding tests and more tests and take up time that these children could be learning or getting a better education with standardize testing!! ENOUGH!!!!

Why don't you take the time and effort in motivating the children and teaching them better. Teach them how to handle real life situations instead of learning how to test. What has school come to?? Teaching how to take tests!!!??? What is that useful for?? Nothing. Teach these kids how to get a job, arts, how about teach them about life and stop testing!!! There are soZny better things to do with this money and time. Think about it and do something about it.

It's bad enough you have taken away creativity for the teachers and the children there are so many more possibilities for this money. Stop with these tests. PLEASE!!

Sincerely a concerned parent,
Lisa Steinman

Sent from Lisa's iPhone

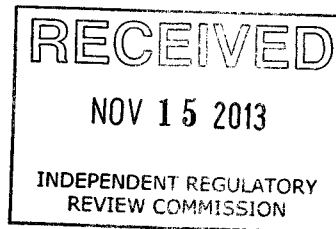


Cooper, Kathy

From: daschwartz24@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:20 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com
Subject: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

I am writing to say I adamantly oppose the Keystone Exams being tied to a student's high school graduation. I am asking you to REJECT the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. I urge you to VOTE NO on November 21st. For the sake of our children, their passion towards learning, their mental health, and self-esteem, I urge you to stop these senseless exit examinations.

Respectfully,
Danielle Arnold-Schwartz
105 Woodside Rd.
Ardmore, PA 19003



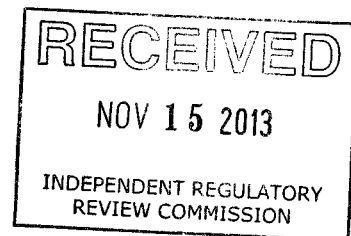
Cooper, Kathy

From: LAURA RAWDIN <pennst8gal@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:12 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

I do not support the Keystone exams because in my opinion forcing our students to have to pass a standardized test in order to graduate takes time and resources away from our schools. It forces the schools to "teach to the test" to make sure the kids pass, and also ends up costing our district a lot of money to ensure those that don't pass are tutored to pass before they graduate.

Thank you for your time,

Laura Rawdin



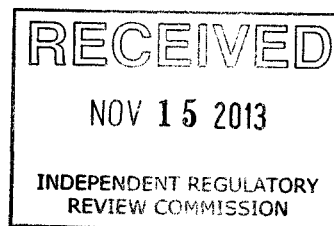
Cooper, Kathy

From: tic152@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:25 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com

I am writing to say I adamantly oppose the Keystone Exams being tied to a student's high school graduation. I am asking you to REJECT the proposed Chapter 4 regulations. I urge you to VOTE NO on November 21st. For the sake of our children, their passion towards learning, their mental health, and self-esteem, I urge you to stop these senseless exit examinations.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Cooper
56 E. Spring Ave.
Apt. 2
Ardmore, PA 19003



Cooper, Kathy

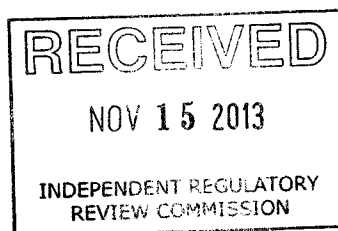
From: Valerie Coursen <vjcoursen@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:45 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: comment on Keystone Exams

Dear Mr. David Sumner,

I think the Keystone Exams take up too much instructional time in our children's school day. Let's use this time for authentic memorable learning that will resonate with the students for years to come, not more tests.

Sincerely,

Valerie Coursen



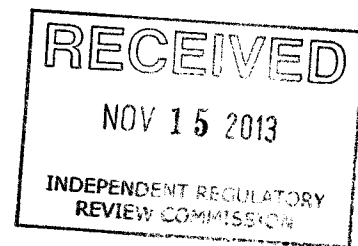
Cooper, Kathy

From: Jen Turner <jenjturner416@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 8:48 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

I oppose the proposed regulations that the Keystone Exams are required for graduation.

**Thank you,
Jennifer Turner**

Sent from my iPhone



Cooper, Kathy

From: Michael Segal <mcsegal@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:10 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Do NOT make Keystones a requirement

Dear Director Sumner,

Please do not require the Keystone Exams for graduation. It's a simplistic solution for complicated problems, and it's educationally unsound.

The flaws of test-prep driven curriculum have been shown repeatedly in academic literature — literature that is often absent from political debates. A test can provide useful diagnostic information, but when ridiculously high stakes are attached to passing a test, anything else becomes superfluous, and “anything goes” to get kids to pass.

The common core itself is a shockingly unproven approach to curriculum. There has been much research establishing the need for 21st century thinkers and creative problem solvers, and yet schools cannot adopt these educational approaches when held accountable to deeply traditional tests that could have come straight out of the 1950s. The predictive value of these tests is dubious. How many members of the PA State legislature could do a rhetorical analysis of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address? Is this skill truly necessary to succeed in college and life? And what is lost in the hours of drilling and grilling that might make this achievement possible?

In the meantime, how do you account for phenomenal success stories, like <http://www.workshopschool.org/> The Workshop School, which has taken poor urban youth and led them to amazing problem-solving and academic achievements through nontraditional curriculum?

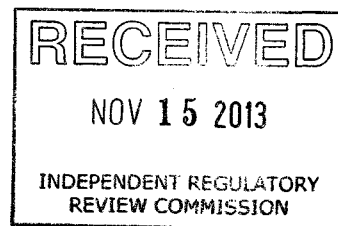
Requiring Keystones for graduation will be the death of educational visionaries who see other paths to help students succeed.

And it will be pointless and unattainable for some. It's like saying, “You can't graduate a high school Phys Ed program without running the 50 yard dash in 6.5 or fewer seconds.” Well, some people who might otherwise succeed in life will not be able to meet that standard. And for those who can, so what?

Not that the standards are not helpful. Schools, teachers, like everyone, needs accountability, and there are many ways of using test results to intelligently inform instruction, and in some cases hold negligent teachers or schools accountable.

But to make it a graduation requirement is a rigid, shallow approach that will hurt many more students than it helps.

Michael Segal
Narberth, Pennsylvania
Father of three



Cooper, Kathy

From: Heather Braver <hkbraver@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:15 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: No more testing

Our five children are so overtested and worried about test results that they it is impacting their well being. All of this testing and preparation robs the children and their teachers of the precious time required to teach and dialogue in the classroom. Our educational system has it all wrong - testing is not the answer. Please do not make Keystone Exams a graduation requirement. It is not in the best interst of our kids or their educators.

Thank You,
Heather Braver



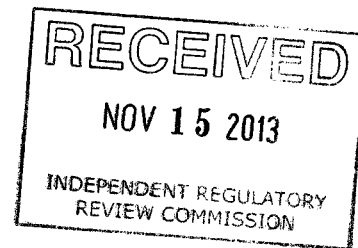
Cooper, Kathy

From: Caroline Manogue <cbmanogue@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:31 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

I am a resident of Lower Merion Township. As a parent of two school-age children, and having experienced the unintended consequences of constant standardized testing on students, teachers and precious resources, I urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and the General Assembly not to require Keystone Exams as graduation requirements.

Thank you for your consideration,

Caroline Manogue



Cooper, Kathy

From: Datner, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Datner@uphs.upenn.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:49 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exam opposition

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the requirement of passing keystone exams to graduate highschool. It is a waste of money, our teachers time and our children's time.

Betsy Datner
Associate Professor
University of PA

The information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the personal and confidential use of the recipient(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this document in error and that any review, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.

