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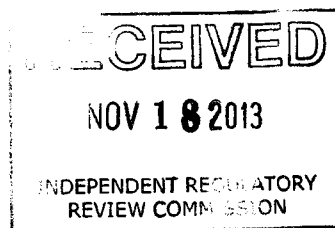


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November 18, 2013

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III  
 Chairman  
 Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
 333 Market St., 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Harrisburg, PA 17101  
 Email: [irrc@irrc.state.pa.us](mailto:irrc@irrc.state.pa.us)



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

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

I am writing to express my strong support for final-form regulation #6-326, related to academic standards and assessments, and urge IRRC to approve the regulations.

Too many young people in Pennsylvania graduate from high school without the academic background to be successful. The adoption of the more rigorous and internationally benchmarked Pennsylvania Core Standards, along with aligned assessments that include Keystone Exams, will help to ensure our high school graduates have the academic foundation required to successfully transition to postsecondary education or the workforce.

Through our signature initiative, World Class Greater Philadelphia, the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia is working to make sure the pieces are in place to support a growing economy and opportunity for all residents. The cornerstone of this work is a smart, well-educated workforce, and adoption of the Common Core can help us achieve this.

If adopted, the final-form regulation will make some common-sense changes to Pennsylvania's current regulation. It would replace the national Common Core State Standards with the Pennsylvania Core Standards, which are aligned to the Common Core and developed by Pennsylvania teachers.

Again, I strongly support the final-form regulation and urge IRRC to approve it.

Sincerely,

Steven T. Wray  
 Executive Director