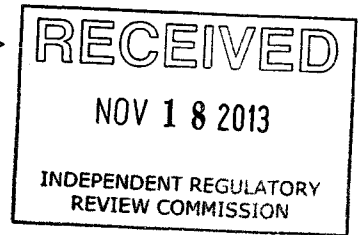


Cooper, Kathy

From: Hoover, Deborah H. <DHHoover@mccormicktaylor.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 5:52 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams



Dear Mr. Sumner,

After reading State Senator Dinniman's article published on PennLive November 15, 2013, I am writing to express my opposition to the Keystone Graduation Exams. As a mother of a 1st Grader and a 4th Grade, I already have experience with the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) testing, which in my opinion is a complete and utter disgrace in terms of measuring our student's attainment of the academic standards and the proficiency of the schools to attain those standards. Now, you are proposing to pile onto that the Keystone Graduation Exams which will only exacerbate the issues that schools are currently realizing with the PSSA tests and will continue to punish those students who by nature, do not test well. Why are you placing so much importance on standardized tests? What happens to all of the hard work that these students put into earning grades in their respective classes? In addition, you are going to be spending more than \$65 million to develop and millions of dollars more to implement a testing program when our poorest school districts are going bankrupt without the resources or tax base to provide the proper instruction that will allow students to pass the test? In closing, I reiterate, I am opposed to the implementation of any additional standardized testing in public schools. I believe the Keystone Graduation exams will continue to force our teachers to "teach for the test".

Deborah Hoover

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