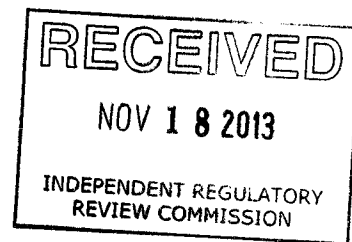


From: HBB786 <hbb786@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 10:33 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

I am writing to inform you I am **opposed** to the possible Keystone Exams. As a former teacher who taught for 35 years, this exam will not improve education. I join those school districts that have already informed you that they do not support this endeavor!

Most sincerely,
Dale Ann Applebaum
Montgomery County



Cooper, Kathy

From: longobardi4@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:43 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exam

To Whom it may concern,

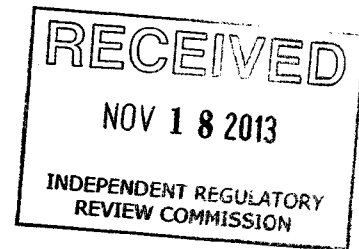
As a parent, I am opposed to making student graduation contingent upon passing the Keystone Graduation Exam. Our children already spent too much time taking standardized tests when they should be learning how to think critically. My children have been barraged by test since they started school.

I do not think we need yet another standardized test. The school districts will need to spend millions, over all, to comply with this new proposed state mandate. I want the best for my children's education. I sincerely believe this is not money well spent.

I encourage you to reject the Keystone Graduation Exam.

Yours Sincerely,

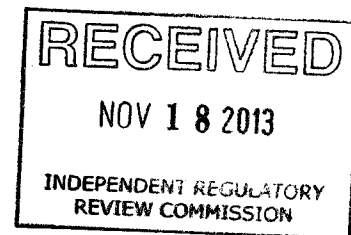
Debra Longobardi
52 Kenalcon Drive
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610.935.8525



Cooper, Kathy

From: Francine Goldberg <francine1039@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:59 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Testing

I object to the proposed testing for Pennsylvania students in order to graduate from high school.



Cooper, Kathy

From: gwenhogan@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:02 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Are you out of your mind on Keystone Exams

If you are in touch with education at all the one thing we don't need is ONE MORE EXAM! This is like when HMO hit the healthcare industry. We are spending far too much time evaluating and doing paperwork on our students and it is a major detractor for the actual education going on. The congress spends too much time researching topics, the healthcare industry is buried in paperwork, and students are being tested and evaluated out the wazoo. LET PEOPLE DO THEIR JOBS AND GET RID OF THE PAPERWORK and blame game. We don't need to turn our schools and students into identical drones. We need to let the teachers do their jobs and let the cream rise to the top. We simply CANNOT make children that don't have good home lives into good students by applying a tighter and tighter grip on educators. Do what makes sense and help improve home life by supporting the economy, keeping jobs in the US and preventing bad parenting.

Gwen, West Chester, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Greg. <gregorj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:11 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: NO to Keystone Graduation Exams

I'm wiht Rep. Dinneman on this one --

do NOT allow for the implementation of Keystone Graduation Exams

~ Greg Pasquarello~

Spring Ford School Dist.



Cooper, Kathy

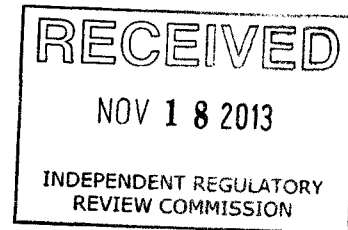
From: Alan Hughes <alan_j_hughes@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:38 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone exams

I am asking that you NOT pass the Keystone exams in our state! As a property owner, I DO NOT want my property taxes to increase any more than they have. Also, I know this test is not in the best interest of our students.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE KEYSTONE EXAMS. WE DO NOT WANT THEM IN OUR STATE! WE DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY FOR THEM.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alan J. Hughes



Cooper, Kathy

From: Louis Birk <louisbirk@netscape.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 7:57 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Oppose Keystone Graduation Exams

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exams as they can only increase the cost of education while drawing on resources that could be used for personal instruction.

Louis Birk
Chalfont, PA 18914

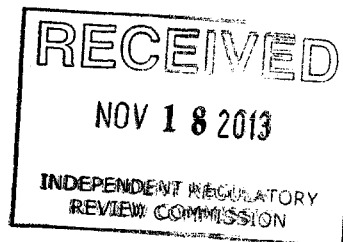


Cooper, Kathy

From: Buzzenbe@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 8:36 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

As I understand this topic, these tests are only going to create more problems for teachers, administrators, students and parents. It all comes down to having districts and school boards direct their strategies and goals on how to best serve students. Putting more pressure on students to perform on tests is not the answer. Strong teaching skills and dedicated teachers, a curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking in every subject, the opportunity to be creative and "think outside the box", as well as strengthening oral and written communication is what I think are the basis for a strong educational foundation. Teaching to tests, just won't cut it. Do we have a Pennsylvania Legislature that is educated enough to understand the implications of passing such laws?

A concerned grandmother

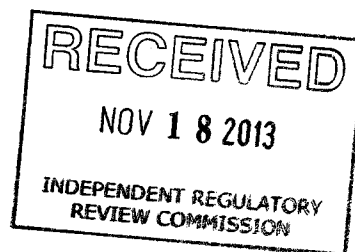


Cooper, Kathy

From: Milton Baxter <mbaxter228@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:50 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: School Taxes

Sent from my iPad

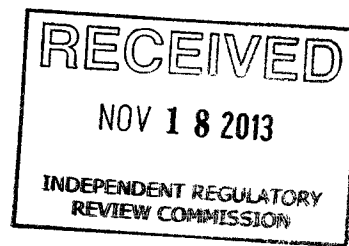
I am a senior citizen who have paid property taxes every since I was 22 years old I think it is unfair that I have to continue to pay property taxes let alone raising my taxes.



Cooper, Kathy

From: Milton Baxter <mbaxter228@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 9:56 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation exam

Sent from my iPad
I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation exam.



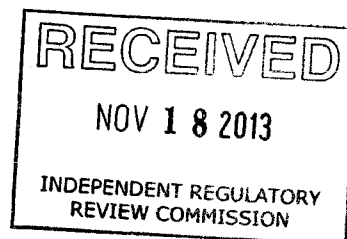
Cooper, Kathy

From: Sherry Wildfeuer <sherrywlf@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:09 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

Dear David Sumner and members of the IRRC,

I am writing to say that as a PA resident and parent of four college graduates **I strongly oppose the proposed Keystone Graduation Exams.** High stakes tests are antithetical to the love of learning. They would strengthen the unhealthy tendency to industrialize our education system and limit the creativity of educators and students alike. Many students are great thinkers but do badly on tests--these tests would prohibit such people from getting a high school diploma even if they had shown themselves capable in their school setting.

Sincerely,
Sherry Wildfeuer
Kimberton , PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Timothy Smail <tsmail00@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 10:23 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

PA IRRC:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Keystone Graduation Exams and to ask you to reject the proposals currently coming up for review by the Commission..

I am a voting, tax paying US citizen, a veteran, and, except for my years spent overseas while in the military, a life-long resident of PA. I have taught at the college level but have not taught more than an occasional class at the high school level. I did, however, gain my entire grade school and high school education in and graduated from PA schools and raised two children whose education consisted of the same and who became very successful adults whose families are following suit. I have had work and study experience with universities in several states as well as Cambridge and Edinburg Universities in England and Scotland.

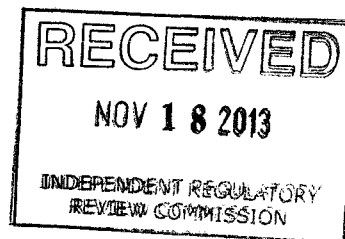
I do not believe Standardized testing is the best way to judge the adequacy of educational programs nor the best measure of a student's suitability for graduation.

I understand that, under the current proposal, students who fail the test will be required to have their education "remediated" and that local school districts will have to bear the burden of this remediation. There is NO WAY such a system will not create the need for increased taxes. This is an unnecessary cost, an unnecessary program and an unnecessary burden on PA taxpayers.

Undoubtedly, the only way for schools to guarantee testing success is to "teach the test". This will be one more drain on the time teachers have to work with students trying to teach them worthwhile knowledge and skills; so that some bureaucrat can check a box and determine the fates of many lives, both students and teachers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Timothy C. Smail
1672 Suzanne Dr.
West Chester, PA 19380
610-269-5004

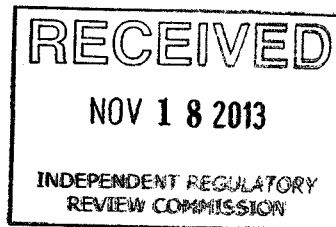


Cooper, Kathy

From: Mary Himmer <mary.himmer@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 11:05 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone testing

This type of testing will encourage even more teaching to the test rather than to the needs of the individual geographical area. It will increase taxes, and I sincerely doubt will produce better, and most likely probably worse outcomes in those that do graduate. They will learn to the test rather than to something more meaningful.

Sincerely,
Mary Adelle Himmer



Cooper, Kathy

From: nwelsh@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 1:22 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

A terrible idea for everyone except the company who won the contract to print and administer.

1. All school districts are not the same. Districts where high % of kids go to college prove by virtue of their acceptance to university that they are qualified to graduate from high school. Other districts graduate kids who can barely read or do simple math. Both districts, however, must meet same requirements. What is a kid in the latter situation going to do with that algebra & biology in the job market?

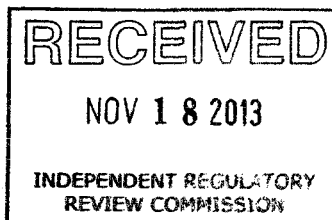
2. Districts use the A through F letter grading system. Too many "D's" & "F's" mean you don't graduate. Simple.

3. More & more class time is spent on test prep and not on teaching subjects. Keystone exams are not the only standardized tests given.

Direct time and resources to poor districts to give them enough books and supplies to teach their students. The kids would have a better chance at learning, don't you think?

Please use common sense here.

Nancy Hayman
Sent from my iPad

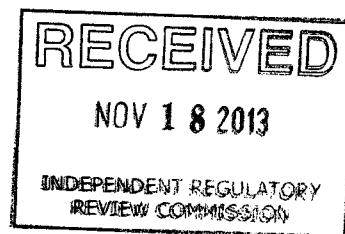


Cooper, Kathy

From: Susan Crawford <smc409@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 6:00 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone graduation exam

I am opposed to this bill!!!!!!

Susan Crawford 409 Howell exton pa 19341

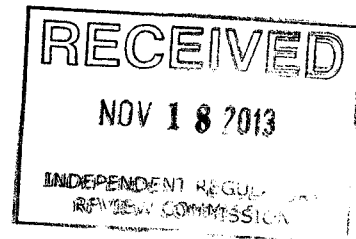


Cooper, Kathy

From: Marilyn Kellar <mkellarhf@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 6:37 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone grad. Exam

I am opposed to the Keystone graduation exam legislation . It is an exam that is not necessary and creates a further drain on students and tax payers

Sent from my iPhone

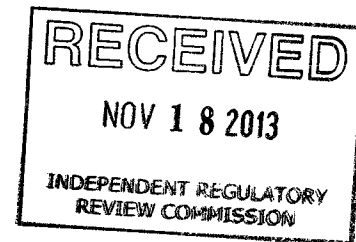


Cooper, Kathy

From: Rebecca Stein <bbythestein@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 7:34 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exam

**Please, no more teaching to the test and no graduation exam.
Thank you for voting No on the 19th.**

**Rebecca B Stein
35 Grubb Rd
Pottstown Pa 19465**



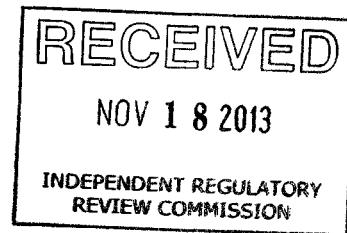
Cooper, Kathy

From: Krista Heim <kristaheim77@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 7:36 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone exams

Please do not approve the Keystone graduation exams. Education in our country and state is becoming so test-driven, there is no longer room for creativity or ingenuity. If a student has excelled in school please don't make them jump through another hoop. If a student has struggled, please don't frustrate them further. This is unnecessary and very expensive.

No Keystone Exams!

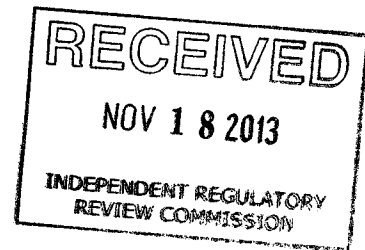
Thank you
Krista Heim
Chester Springs PA
Sent from my iPhone.



Cooper, Kathy

From: dodobehr@juno.com
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 7:57 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

IRRC members,
Kindy know I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exams. Dorothea Ber



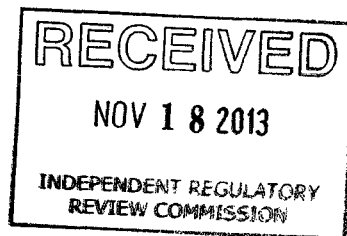
Cooper, Kathy

From: JoyceCMI@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 8:24 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

As someone who has been involved in education at the college level for more than 50 years I have seen the abilities of freshman college students diminish by an alarming rate. Tests such as the Keystone Exams do not look at the innate capability of student to solve a problem only their ability to guess and be right often enough to pass the test.

Asking a student to write an answer to a question or to describe how they would solve a problem is a much better "test" of their abilities. It might mean more reading for the instructor, however, it is also a much better evaluation of the student and their ability to express themselves.

Knowing where to look for an answer to a problem and being able to judge the reliability among the possible answers is more meaningful than memorizing facts or equations.



Cooper, Kathy

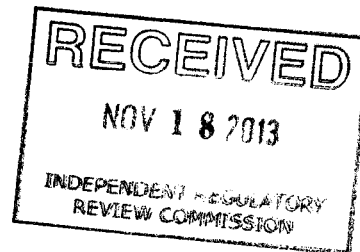
From: Donna Rubin <drrubin1@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 8:34 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Opposed to Keystones

Life is not an examination

Students need to know problem solving and project based learning This places an unnecessary expense on tax payers The only people making money are the testing organizations

As a former Business executive for Sun Mircrosystems & current teacher of computer science who has traveled the globe I see no redeeming value in this test

Donna Rubin



Cooper, Kathy

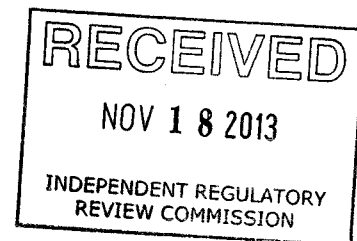
From: Eileen Clark <eileen.clark@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 9:05 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: I DO NOT SUPPORT KEYSTONE GRADUATION EXAMS

I agree wholeheartedly with Senator Dinniman:

It is fundamentally wrong for three standardized tests to determine a student's high school graduation, especially when those tests were developed with no input whatsoever from a course teacher or local district. If the Keystone Graduation Exams are approved, high school students starting with current freshmen (Class of 2017) will face the possibility of passing all their classes but failing a Keystone Exam and not getting a diploma.

It is downright irresponsible to implement a program of graduation exams that will result in the largest unfunded mandate in the past 50 years. The proposed Keystone Exams require school districts to provide remediation and supplementary instruction for students who do not pass. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Education provides no funding whatsoever for remediation costs. In fact, the department has the gall to claim that the exams will have no cost to local school districts, even as test results from the summer indicate failure rates as high as 60 percent in Algebra I and Biology and 45 percent in Literature. It is conservatively estimated that the exams will result in an unfunded mandate of more than \$300 million a year. It's no stretch of the imagination to realize that the buck will be passed onto taxpayers in the form of massive school property tax increases.

Meanwhile, financially distressed school districts throughout the state are teetering on the verge of bankruptcy. In Philadelphia, for example, schools face class sizes of nearly 50 students, have been forced to close their libraries and even struggle to afford textbooks and basic instructional materials. How can we, in good conscience, spend millions to implement a new testing program – a program that will likely bankrupt our poorest schools?

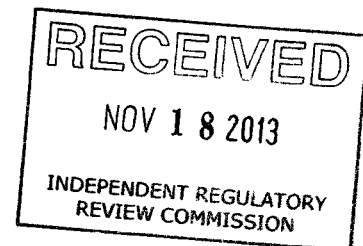


Cooper, Kathy

From: Joan Hazbun <jchazbun6@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 9:58 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Oppose Keystone Graduation Exams

Although the aim of improving educational standards in Pennsylvania is admirable, rushing to impose an exam that will prevent many students from graduating when they fail is not a good idea. More money needs to be allocated for remediation of students beforehand. Not to graduate after twelve years of education is unjust and in most cases the fault of the system not the students. There are already enough standardized tests in the schools and unless you extend the school year which is longer in many other countries, the time for real teaching is impaired. We don't like unfunded mandates and this is yet another one. Local school districts especially the poorer ones are already hard pressed because of lower state funding. Don't place another burden on them. Introduce education improvements more gradually and with more resources to carry them out.

Joan Hazbun
6 Michele Drive
Media, PA. 19063



Cooper, Kathy

From: tom ricker <toricker@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 10:23 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: keystone disaster

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you as a parent, teacher, former accountant, and mostly, as a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania.

Making Keystone passage a requirement for graduation is wrong and will be ANOTHER unfunded mandate left up to the taxpayers to fund.

We need a creative, critical thinking citizenship. Memorizing and spitting back test information will NOT get us there. I can still remember studying for the CPA exam. I was able to pass after putting in many, many hours of study. But guess what? As soon as the test was over, I forgot most of the test material! It was through the practice of accounting that I became great as an accountant.

It was a stressful time and I was an adult going this process. PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF THE STUDENTS OF PENNSYLVANIA! They deserve so much more than drill and kill!

Sincerely,

Tom Ricker
Ridley Park, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: ellen Ufberg <premcon1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 10:28 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone graduation exams

Please oppose the institution of these standardized exams in PA. This forces emphasis on passing the exams which is very different from real learning. Ellen Ufberg, Melrose Park, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Martha Buck <marthajbuck@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:22 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exam

As a former teacher, I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exam and urge you to vote against it.

Martha Buck



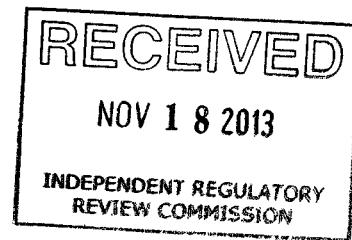
Cooper, Kathy

From: Eric Wills <ericwills40@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:26 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Common Core

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing as a concerned parent, We cannot allow Common Core to remove Parental/ local oversight at our schools.

This would be the final straw for many including myself. I would choose homeschooling before I'd allow bureaucrats the final say in our curriculum. Thanks, Eric Wills



Cooper, Kathy

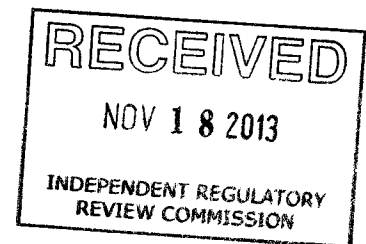
From: Ray Doyle <wcurams1@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:33 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

I am opposed to the exams.

I am a retired history professor who taught at West Chester University.

Ray Doyle

West chester, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Barbara <barbara522@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:37 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: No Keystone Exam

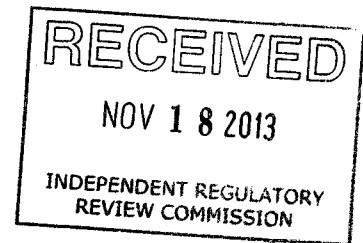
Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you to discourage you from moving forward with the Keystone exams. While my daughter is attending a great school in a highly ranked district, this is not the case throughout the state. These tests will cause taxpayers extra money because there will be a high failure rate in inner cities. It is impossible for the test to work for all students and I believe very few will actually pass!

Please drop the standardized testing in Pennsylvania.

Thank you,

Barbara Belshaw
Downingtown, PA
Sent from my iPad

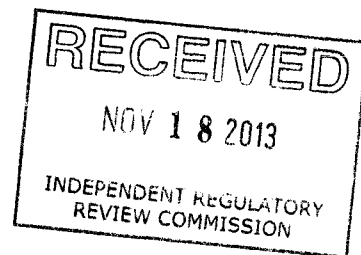


Cooper, Kathy

From: Marylyn Berg <blaineanniehenry@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:46 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: The madness

This madness for testing our students must stop. Trust teachers!

Sent from my iPhone



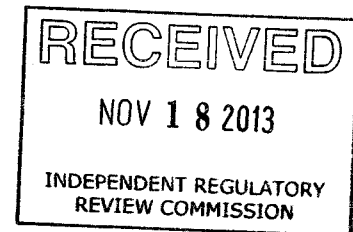
Cooper, Kathy

From: tfacciolli1@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:49 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Reject the Keystone Graduation Exams

Dear IRRC,

I think the PA legislature should reject the adoption of the Keystone Graduation Exams. I think it will increase the amount of time spent "teaching to the test" and leave less time for true classroom instruction. It is also not funded and therefore will result in higher state property taxes - something to which I am opposed. Please do not adopt the Keystone Graduation Exams.

Tina Facciolli
127 Linden Street
West Chester, PA 19382-3737
610-696-1714



Cooper, Kathy

From: BuntingK@gtlaw.com
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:50 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: No to the Keystone Exams

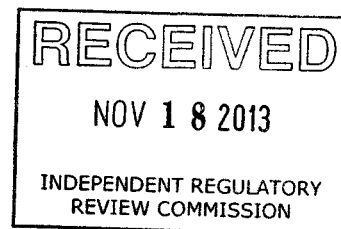
Dear Sir/Madam:

We are the parents of a 9-year-old and a 14-year-old who are currently in the T/E school system. We STRONGLY oppose implementing the Keystone Exams. Our school district is still in the process of digging itself out of a hole (as is every other school district around us) and there is no funding for these tests. Implementing the Keystone exams will only through the various school districts into greater economic turmoil. Not only that, but we have had enough of this "teaching to the test" mentality. Our teachers in this district are excellent. Let them actually teach the children how to learn NOT how to take yet another test. This is a HUGE waste of time and a waste of our taxpayer dollars. Please do NOT implement the Keystone Exams.

Thank you,

Kelly and Craig Bunting

If you are not an intended recipient of confidential and privileged information in this email, please delete it, notify us immediately at postmaster@gtlaw.com, and do not use or disseminate such information. Pursuant to IRS Circular 230, any tax advice in this email may not be used to avoid tax penalties or to promote, market or recommend any matter herein.



Cooper, Kathy

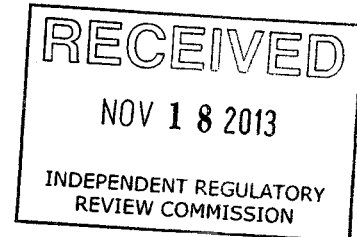
From: J McTiernan <j_mctiernan@yahoo.com> on behalf of j_mctiernan@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:27 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone exams - opposed

I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exams

I am strongly opposed to any one exam having such influence on a student's graduation. Is anyone at Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission a certified educator? I am not, but I am blessed with common sense. Could any of our state representatives pass these tests? I can only imagine that someone is making a lot of money off of these. Stop the madness.

Thank you,

Jennifer McTiernan
West Chester, PA
WCASD with an
8th grader and a 12th grader



Cooper, Kathy

From: Lisa Williams <lmwcorev@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:29 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

As a special education teacher, I watch my students struggle through the PSSAs when they are reading below grade level. The level of anxiety rises as their self esteem drops. Many of these students would score much better if someone could read it to them so they could show their comprehension. They are smart kids but the high stakes testing situation does not allow them to show what they know. Fast forward a few years and the students will once again feel like a failure when they are presented with the keystones. They will need to fail the test twice before an alternative way to show their comprehension is allowed. Extra classes will need to take the place of electives that students take to explore career opportunities or enhance a strength of theirs. Students will receive a lesser diploma again making them feel like a failure. Keystones should not be used as a requirement for graduation.

Lisa Williams
Sent from my iPad



Cooper, Kathy

From: Stephen G. Stanton <lawss107@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:29 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: NO to Standardized Testing in Pennsylvania

15 November 2013

I urge you to reject establishing Keystone Graduation Exams in Pennsylvania. Such high stakes testing does not adequately test many students true capabilities and knowledge.

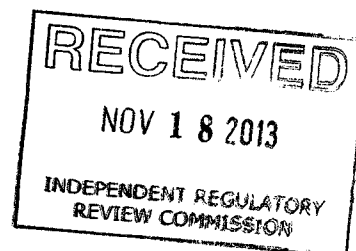
When we're being preached to about increasing taxes, such testing would amount to an unfunded mandate forcing many school districts to increase property taxes.

Please vote no.

Very respectfully,

Stephen G. Stanton
(610) 26-514

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Cooper, Kathy

From: hpmason@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:38 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduatuiou Exams

please do NOT put this into effect



Cooper, Kathy

From: Margaret Kovach <kovachjmkmj@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:39 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Against the Keystone exams

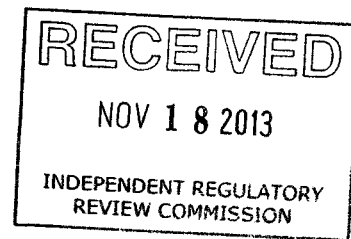


Cooper, Kathy

From: Frank Perina <fwmpdp@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:39 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

As a grandparent and taxpayer, I am responding to the legislation referring to the Keystone Graduation Exams. This legislation is mandated without funding and will cause higher property tax. But worse than that, it will cause less classroom instruction for no good outcome, downgrading students along the way. These Keystone Graduation Exams are fundamentally wrong – pushing public education out and unnecessarily putting more stress on individual taxpayers.

Margaret Perina
1908 Art School Rd.
Chester Springs, PA 19425

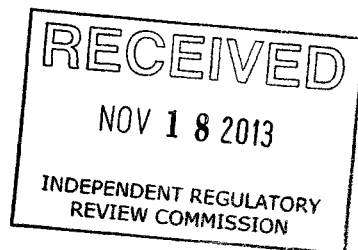


Cooper, Kathy

From: Kelley <kms913@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:48 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone graduation exmas

I am very opposed to this testing! Please reject the legislation. It is unfair to the students, teachers and taxpayers. Let the teachers teach to the students, not teach to the testing. Some students are just not good test takers under pressure. Thank you.

Kelley Sagherian
Sent from my iPad



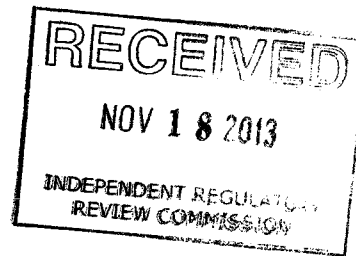
Cooper, Kathy

From: t b <tomsue26@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:50 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Tests

I am not in favor of the initiative currently under review. The last thing we need is another requirement that, whether we want it or not, results in our teachers being forced to "teach-to-the-test". The fact this approach can result in a gifted student failing to graduate based on one-time test scores seems to undermine the purpose of education. Further the fact that the cost of implementation and maintenance will be borne by taxpayers like me is unacceptable. Further, as there is no allowance for remediation in this program guarantees that the rolls of the forgotten will increase, not decrease.

I encourage you to consider the true pros and cons of this approach and reject its premise.

Regards,
Tom Bragg



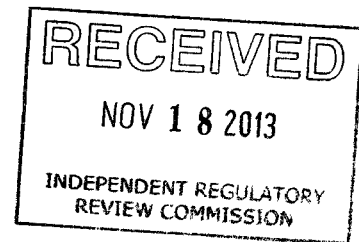
Cooper, Kathy

From: Suburbanb@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:41 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams

I am opposed to the Keystone Graduation Exams. They will only promote teaching to the test, and avoid real learning. They are not the best way to examine student learning. Grades are enough. Students already face the pressure of SAT and ACT exams. To fail a student from high school because they didn't pass the Keystone Graduation Exams just isn't fair. What about students who transfer into Pennsylvania high schools after going to high school for most of the time in another state? They will not be prepared to pass the Keystone Graduation Exams. The Keystone Graduation Exams are a bad idea, and I am firmly opposed to them.

Sincerely,

Caroline Colwill



Cooper, Kathy

From: Kristin Schappell <klschappell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:43 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: I oppose the Keystone Exams as graduation requirements

I am writing to express my opposition to the Keystone Exams as graduation requirements . I am writing to express that I am opposed to the Keystone exams completely. There simply is no money and there is not one more day of class time I want allocated to testing in our school district.

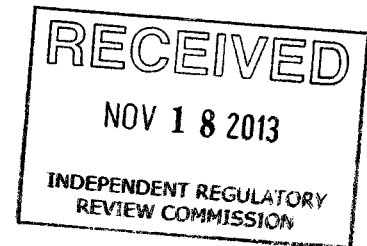
Schools in our area are already struggling with their budgets and imposing unfunded mandates will hurt our school and hurt our students.

Tredyffrin Easttown School district is doing an excellent job preparing students for college and beyond.

On behalf of my family, friends and neighbors who are all opposed to these tests, we hope you will listen and vote against keystone exams.

Thank you,

Kristin Schappell
402 Chester Rd, Devon PA 19333
Easttown Township, Chester County
Tredyffrin Easttown School District



Cooper, Kathy

From: Yohn, Cheryl on behalf of Help
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:49 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: IRRC Website - New Message

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us [<mailto:ContactForm@state.pa.us>]
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:15 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



IRRC

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: david

Last Name: kies

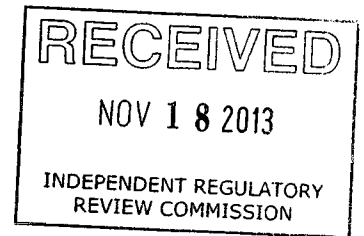
City/State: allentown, pa

Email: davekies@yahoo.com

Subject: Title 22

Message:

I reviewed the revisions in Chapter and I hope your approve them. If the revisions are rejected it will put a great burden on our schools which have already been gutted by the loss of Federal Tax dollars. Sincerely Dave Kies



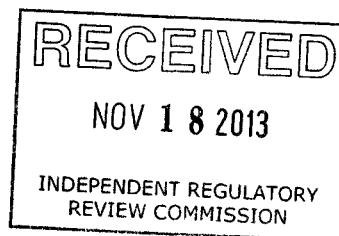
Cooper, Kathy

From: Sharon DiPietro <shardip11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:52 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

I am a resident of the Tredyffrin Easttown School District and am writing to urge you to not implement the Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement. I have two children in the district, one attended Conestoga High School and one attended Devon Prep School, a small Catholic high school. I have seen both schools test the academic achievement and progress of their students, and cannot fathom why an additional test should be added to allow graduation. Both schools I have been involved in have had the ability to identify and monitor students who are not achieving and then offer them assistance. Who would benefit from testing 100% of the students? I am assuming that there is a cost involved and that the PA Dept of Education would profit from instituting this testing. Otherwise, there is no argument to put this into place in high schools who consistently graduate above average academic students.

I would like to be recognized as stating my opposition to the Keystone Exams in our state's educational requirements.

Sharon DiPietro
684 Allen Lane
Devon PA 19333



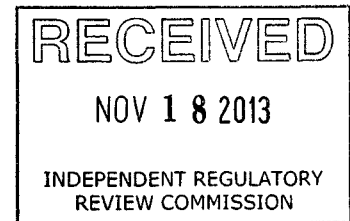
Cooper, Kathy

From: Florence Hoffritz <frhmom3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 4:11 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

I do not think the Keystone Exams should be part of the education program in Pennsylvania. Passing or failing these exam does not adequately measure the comprehension and abilities of a student or the effectiveness of teachers and the school districts. The Keystone exam results should not be used to present otherwise good students from graduating from high school.

Please vote to reject the Keystone Exams as a requirement for graduation in Pennsylvania.

Have a Great Day... Florence
frhmom3@gmail.com



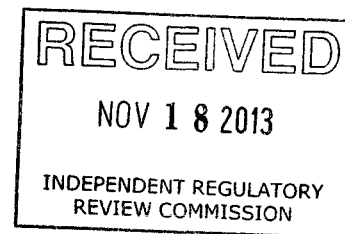
Cooper, Kathy

From: 'Connie Hofmann' <conhofmann@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:50 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Re: RE: Please REJECT the Keystone Graduation Exams

Recipient: conhofmann@comcast.net

Subject: RE: Please REJECT the Keystone Graduation Exams

Thank you for contacting Pennsylvania's Independent Regulatory Review Commission ("IRRC"). If you have submitted comments on a regulation please note that, under Pennsylvania's Regulatory Review Act,



2976

Cooper, Kathy

From: Rebecca Cesarz <rebeccacesarz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:50 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRC vote on Keystone exams
Attachments: 1KeystonesPositionPaper.pdf



Dear Mr. Sumner:

I am very concerned about the pending vote by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) on the Keystone Exams Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013.

My son is in the first class (2017) which will be impacted by this new set of requirements if they are passed. Given that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently endured draconian cuts to the education system, to add this mandate will place an undue burden on school districts and in the process punish those students who already face difficulty. With school districts struggling to reapportion resources in the wake of the budget cuts, how is it fiscally responsible to add in a new set of requirements placing further strain on an already overloaded system? The cost to school districts (and taxpayers) is estimated to exceed \$300 million. Where will that money come from? I fear the answer is that districts will be forced to cut more programs that are already stretched too thin, further negatively impacting our students.

In Southeastern PA, 58 of 61 school superintendents and IU executive directors signed a position paper (attached) opposing the Keystone Exams, including the superintendent from my school district, Downingtown. They cite a number of reasons, chief among them the costs of the exams in addition to the lack of communication from the PA Department of Education regarding implementation and outcomes, and the negative impact it will have on PA students first and foremost, in addition to teachers and school districts.

I urge you not to require the Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement. Accountability and rigorous standards are a vital part of the education system; poorly implemented, costly and needless exams are not.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cesarz
551 Fairview Rd.
P.O. Box 546
Glenmoore, PA 19343

610-505-9398

Cooper, Kathy

From: wendy <atozkleiner@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:29 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Opposition to Keystone exams as graduation requirement and proposed Chapter 4 Regulations

We are Pennsylvania parents in the Lower Merion School District.
We are OPPOSED to the Keystone provisions in the currently proposed Chapter 4 Regulations, as explained in the below link (i.e., Letter to IRRC from over fifty Pennsylvania school district superintendents dated 11-5-13) .
We urge you NOT to require Keystone exams as a graduation requirement.

Thank you,
Wendy Kleiner



Link to Superintendents' Letter:
[http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101630330592-851/IRRC+Superintendent+Keystone+Letter 11 04 13+%28%29.pdf](http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101630330592-851/IRRC+Superintendent+Keystone+Letter+11+04+13+%28%29.pdf)

Cooper, Kathy

From: J T Meals <jtmeals@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:45 PM
To: IRRC; David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Graduation Exams - Vote NO

To the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

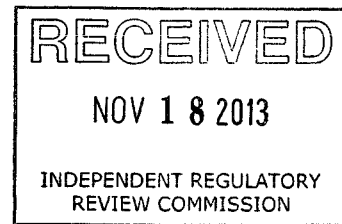
As a taxpayer, voter, and parent I am OPPOSED to the concept of the Keystone Graduation Exams. My first major concern is why propose; let alone implement, such an exam. Our school system and the education process has functioned successfully for over 100 years and will continue to function and perform with outstanding success using current proven instruction and testing methodology and processes.

This concept of another exam for students to pass to graduate and get their earned diploma is totally flawed. Here's why, a student with a 4.0 gpa - straight A's is faced with another exam and should they be in compromised health; i.e.. a migrane, fail the proposed exam and not received their earned diploma.

This proposed graduation exam must be voted down, once and for ever; I am requesting that all voting members VOTE NO to this proposal.

Thank you,

J. T. Meals
Automotive Sales & Service Professional
Downingtown, Pennsylvania
Ph. 484.947.1229



Cooper, Kathy

From: Angela Leonard <angelalnrd@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 10:15 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Concerned parent of five in the WCASD

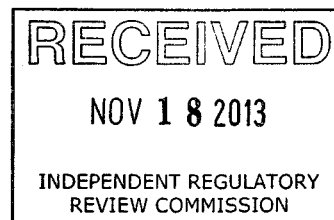
Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to express my deep concerns over the Keystone Exams being used as a determinant of graduation here in the state of Pennsylvania. As a mother of five and a highly educated woman myself, I have always taken issue to the use of standardized testing for anything other than a "check point" of learning. Using a Keystone Exam to determine if a young adult is ready to graduate high school, with total disregard to his or her grade point average, is very unfair. I already LOATHE the fact that a significant percentage of time is spent with the teachers "teaching to the test." Since it is within the right of each and every parent in the state of Pennsylvania to OPT OUT of standardized testing for their child, how exactly will you enforce the Keystone as being a mandatory test for graduation?

To add insult to injury, our schools are already saddled with a reduction in funding and have cut programs, and have begun passing that expense onto its families in the form of "activity fees" and other fees. The tax increase that would be needed to fund the implementation of the Keystone Exams will be just another burden to many families who are already struggling in this tough economy. I do not believe that the Chapter 4 should move forward as written. Please apply the brakes and allow more time for this proposition to be thought out more thoroughly so not to compromise our already underfunded schools and struggling families.

Thank you for your consideration

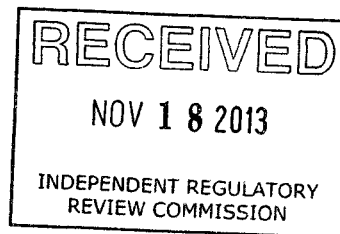
Angela Leonard
West Chester, PA



Cooper, Kathy

From: Michele Reichow <mcreichow@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 9:49 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

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



RE: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

Dear Mr. Sumner,

As a Pennsylvania taxpayer and a mother of four school aged children, 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.

Keystone Exams are a waste of taxpayer dollars. It is estimated that PA will spend close to \$300 million annually on the implementation of Keystone Exams. This money would be better spent on helping teachers and students in districts that are struggling. I live in the suburbs of Philadelphia and every day I read articles about the lack of financial resources available to them. Instead of forcing all school districts to take a one-size-fits-all exam, use those dollars to help the struggling school districts, such as Philadelphia.

Keystone exams are a waste of student and teacher time. Teachers should be allowed to teach material according to their school districts 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.

Too much time and money is already spent on standardized testing in our public schools. I want my children to enjoy school, have an inherent sense of curiosity and a love of learning. I do not want my children to spend their days preparing for state mandated exams. Next year, my 7th grade son will have to take the Alegbra 1 Keystone exam as well as the PSSA exams. My elementary school children run the risk of decreased recess, PE, art, music and foreign language due to test preparation. This is too much. The testing madness needs to stop!

I urge you to VOTE NO on the Chapter 4 regulations. It is time to slow down and develop a new plan to measure student progress and achievement. Let the teachers educate, and let the students learn. Do not waste our money and time on high stakes tests.

Respectfully,

Michele Reichow

Cooper, Kathy

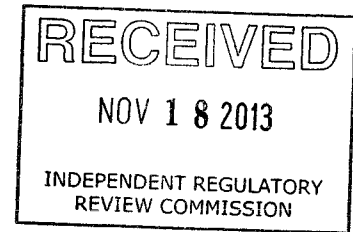
From: Lindsey Samahon <lsamahon@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 10:37 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams: opposed to Regulations

I am writing to express my disapproval regarding the proposal to require passage of the Keystone exam for graduation from high school. I find this proposal ridiculous.

Grades and hard work over time should determine whether a student graduates. Standardized tests should be used as data points to help teachers improve their instruction along the way, but not as another pressure point for stressed out students.

Please add me to your list of petitioners who are opposed to this proposal.

Lindsey Samahon
parent of two 4th graders at Gladwyne Elementary

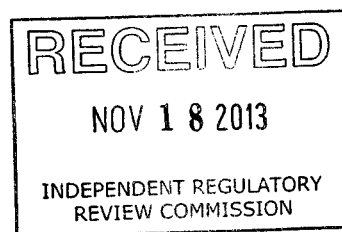


Cooper, Kathy

From: Gaby Lipkin <gablipkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 11:20 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

I am a parent of 3 children in Lower Merion School District. This email is to express my opposition to the addition of Keystone Exams as yet another "high stakes" testing requirement for PA students. As a parent, I find it is disheartening that externally imposed testing pressures seem to grow ever-greater, and are met at the expense of other valuable programming for my children.

Sincerely yours,
Gabrielle Lipkin



Cooper, Kathy

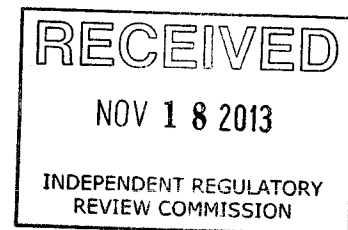
From: Rich Julason <rdjulason@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 11:26 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRC No. 2976

Dear Mr Sumner,

I am opposed to the PA Core Standards because it was foisted on the citizens without any fiscal analysis and the unfunded mandates will lead to tax increases. Please stop this right now

Thank you.

Kathleen Julason
Glen Mills, PA



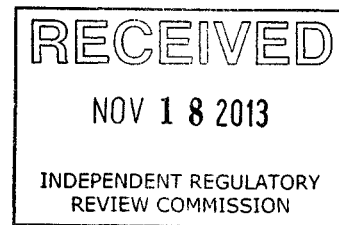
Cooper, Kathy

From: Rich Julason <rdjulason@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 11:39 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRC No. 2976

Dear Mr.Sumner,

I am opposed to the PA Core Standards because it was foisted on the citizens without any fiscal analysis and the unfunded mandates will lead to tax increases. Please stop this right now
Thank you.

Kathleen Julason
Glen Mills, PA



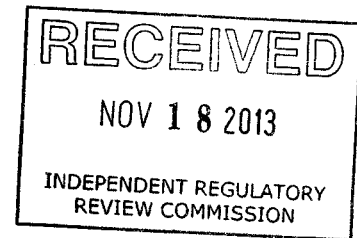
Cooper, Kathy

From: Eurhi Jones <eurhijones@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 11:21 PM
To: David Sumner
Cc: dleach@pasenate.com; repbriggs@pahouse.net; repmaryjodaley@pahouse.net; mfolmer@pasen.gov; BONEill@pahousegop.com; repdelissio@pahouse.net
Subject: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

My name is Eurhi JOnes. I live in Bala Cynwyd, 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. More and more testing is not going to solve our education problems in PA, the children already have too much.

Respectfully,

Eurhi Jones



Cooper, Kathy

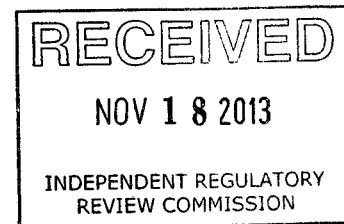
From: Meredith B <mbrunel@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 5:46 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

Mr. Sumner:

I live in zip code 19333, and I oppose the imposition of the Keystone Exams on Pennsylvania students. Our school district has been graduating educated and competent students for decades without the need for a costly, anxiety-provoking, time-consuming exam that will simply consume valuable instruction time, add destructive stress, and a "teaching to the test" mentality in what is now a fine and well-working school district.

Surely the Board of Education can find a more efficient, effective, and nimbler way to improve problem school districts in PA than simply clumsily imposing this across-the-board requirement on everyone. It is the bureaucrats and the consultants that will benefit from the Keystone Exams, not Pennsylvania's good students.

Meredith Brunel
295 Forest Hills Circle
Devon, PA 19333
484-222-3104



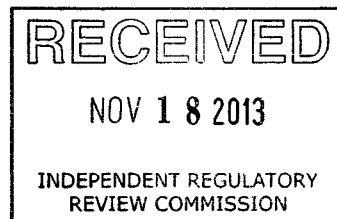
Cooper, Kathy

From: Billing <evansmc2@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 3:15 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: REJECT Keystone Graduation Exams

Executive Director David Sumner,

As a constituent and parent I am asking that you reject the Keystone Graduation Exams (part of the proposed Chapter 4 Final-Form Regulations). These exams are extremely too costly to our budgets, schools, and students. Funding continues to be withdrawn for education, yet mandates increase. This is not a fair equation for anyone involved, especially the students. They are losing out on their education because too much time, energy, and financial resources are being spent on testing, test preparation, and required remediation. The students and schools are being set up for failure. The Keystone Graduation Exams are a failure, don't make the students, schools, and taxpayers fail. Don't encourage this HUGE failure for Pennsylvania.

Thank You,
Michael Evans
2223 Pershing Avenue
Morton, PA 19070



Cooper, Kathy

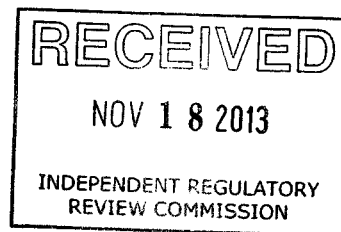
From: Judith Soslowsky <judesos@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 7:29 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Regulation #6 – 326: Academic Standards and Assessment

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte and members of the IRRC,

Regarding the re-purposing of the Keystone Exams, we are writing to you as parents of two students currently in the Pennsylvania public school system. We do not agree with the high-stakes testings that are changing the way students and teachers are held accountable. Undue pressure and financial burdens are placed upon the students, teachers, and school district. Furthermore, students learn and show they've learned in different ways. This form of testing isn't an accurate reflection to have to carry so much weight. Additionally, our family has seen the ways in which high-stakes testing affects a student's psychological and emotional state...and it isn't a process we endorse or encourage.

We urge the IRRC and the General Assembly not to require Keystone Exams as graduation requirements. We appreciate your support of the children of Pennsylvania and hope that by working together all parties can arrive at a more acceptable solution.

Sincerely,
Judith and Lou Soslowsky



Cooper, Kathy

From: Emily Town <etown@connectionseducation.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:14 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystones

Good Morning Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to request that you reject the Keystone Graduation Exams. Please take time to consider the additional expense these exams will cause School Districts. Also consider the social consequences of using these as a graduation requirement.

As I am sure you know, there are many who students who get good grades in all subject areas but struggle with test taking. It would be a shame to their hard work during their academic career get pushed aside because of this exam and exclude them from receiving their diploma. That diploma is important to them for recognition of their achievement as well as for their future endeavors.

I oppose that these tests be added as a graduation requirement for the students of Pennsylvania. Please take time to consider the "ins and outs" before you approve these regulations.

Thank you for your time,

Emily Town



Cooper, Kathy

From: Htay Htay Han <hhhlatt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 6:46 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: VOTE NO on Chapter 4 Regulations

Dear

My name is Mrs Htay Htay Han. I live in Gldwyne, 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,
Htay Htay Han*



Cooper, Kathy

From: Hoffmann, James <JHoffmann@wssd.k12.pa.us>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:22 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone tests

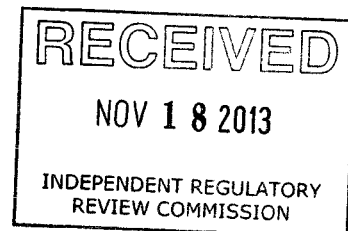
Dear Mr. Sumner,

It is my understanding that the IRRC will vote this weekend on the proposed implementation of the Keystone tests.

As an educator for 35 years, I urge the committee to vote against implementation. There is far more to education than the 3 areas the keystones will test. Clearly standardized testing forces educators to "teach to the test" which restricts what our students can and should be learning. The keystones will not yield a true assessment of our students' learning.

Please lead your committee to reject the keystones. Thank you.

Sincerely,
James Hoffmann



Cooper, Kathy

From: Ingrid Mills <ingrid@legacymark.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:47 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: IRRC No. 2976

Dear Mr. Sumner,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the PA Core Standards. I am a mother of 4 and concerned with the state of the economy. I see things getting more difficult economically and do not foresee any recovery in the near future.

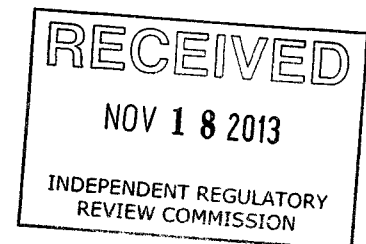
Why are we entertaining these PA Core Standards especially with the PA's budgetary difficulties? What will be the cost of implementing these standards? Are we, the people, going to fund this? Are our taxes going to be raised? There is already a heavy burden on the people.

Being a mother of four with varying degrees of abilities and a teacher, I see standards as a factory approach to teaching. Our children are humans with varying degrees of struggles, difficulties, and interests. They do not work like robots (one method in... proper results out), nor do we want to create them. This program is designed for numbers, not people. There is no empirical evidence that it will improve outcomes and yet many are willing to accept this program whatever the costs. Does this make sense at this time to take on this burden? Personally, I don't see it.

Please oppose the PA Core Standards!

Respectfully,

Ingrid Mills



Cooper, Kathy

From: Lisa Wolverton <wwwlnw161@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:07 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone exams

Dear David,

I'm writing in regards to the Keystone Exams. I feel that if all efforts and attention is dedicated to making sure our kids pass these tests, the kids are going to miss out on other aspects of learning. It's great that students need to learn things in order to graduate, but I fear that the arts may be pushed aside in order to prepare the kids for these exams. Arts are extremely important in developing character, independence and self expression.

School is not all about tests. Some kids are just not great standard test takers and not to mention the stress preparing for and taking the tests! Our kids need to learn to know things important to life. I'm not saying that kids don't need to know what 2+2 is, they surely need math and language and science, but at what cost?

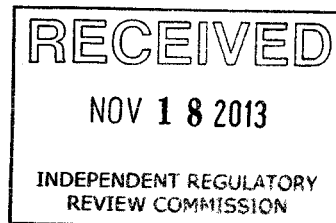
Please consider our children when thinking about the Keystone Exams.

Thank you,

Lisa Wolverton

Parent of Welsh Valley Middle School students, Lower Merion School District

Sent from my iPhone



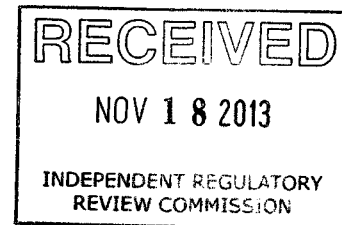
Cooper, Kathy

From: Hartstein, Joel <Joel_Hartstein@cable.comcast.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:19 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

My name is Joel Hartstein. I live in Lower Merion, 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,

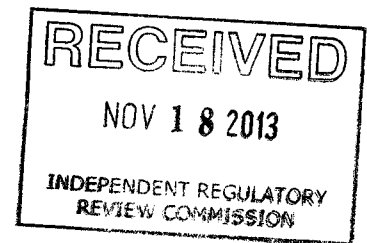
Joel and Alison Hartstein



Cooper, Kathy

From: Carrie Hannon <clivi000@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 8:52 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

I am a teacher in the state of Pennsylvania and I oppose the Keystone exams. I don't believe they are well written, well thought out, and I don't believe that law makers fully understand what they are trying to do to our children. You require all students pass an Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature examination. What about our learning support students that are never able to get to that high level in classes? What about all those students who get test anxiety? To create a test which must be passed in order to graduate is completely insane. I agree with Sen. Dinniman when he said it would lend to higher dropout rates, rather than encouraging students to stay in school and feel successful. Please don't agree to pass the Keystone Exams.



Cooper, Kathy

From: Bill Powers <billpowers.music@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:11 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

Dear Mr. Summer,

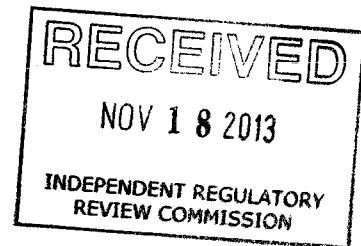
I ask that members of the IRRC reject the proposed Keystone Exams. I find these examinations baseless, especially when considering the examinations' lack of credibility toward a student's high school graduation. Additionally, required remediation will be costly to local taxpayers.

With all current research indicating that best practice student evaluation includes varied assessments, why should pencil and paper testing be considered the requirement for high school graduation?

Again, I ask that the IRRC reject the Keystone Exams.

Respectfully,

William Powers
Landisville, PA



Cooper, Kathy

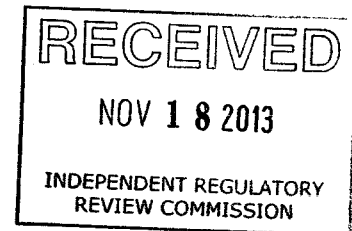
From: Brady , Barbara <barbara.brady@merck.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:20 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams - I oppose graduation requirement for Keystone Exams

Our students are well prepared for graduation and have a number of finals that evaluate their progress in high school. I oppose the requirement to add the Keystone Exams to their already rigorous test schedule for graduation.

Barbara Brady

barbara.brady@merck.com

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Cooper, Kathy

From: Cheri Pellazar <CPellazar@connectionseducation.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:28 AM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams

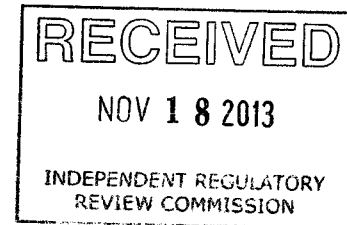
Good morning, Senator Dinniman,

I read your article about the Keystone Exams and agree wholeheartedly with your comments regarding the Keystone Exams. Way too much time is spent out of the classroom taking tests when the time could be better spent in instruction. In my opinion, the PSSA and Keystone tests are mis-used in general and too much emphasis is put on them. One thing in your article that I disagreed with is the Common Core. For many of the same reasons, I think the Common Core is a bad idea. One size fits all will NOT work for the students. It will be another failed experiment that will not allow the teachers to teach and the students will be expected to learn at a rate that may not be appropriate. The teachers, parents and students will end up frustrated and we will end up throwing more money at the problem. Enough money is not the problem with our education system.

Please stop the emphasis on the Keystones and also the Common Core.

Thank you, for your time.

Cheri Pellazar
700 Hastings Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109



Cooper, Kathy

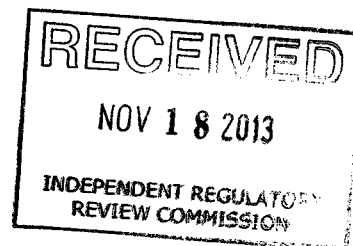
From: Brady, Barbara <barbara.brady@merck.com>
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2013 9:20 AM
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Barbara Brady

barbara.brady@merck.com

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Cooper, Kathy

From: Lawrence A. Husick <lawrence@lawhusick.com>
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 5:00 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Opposition to Keystone Exams
Attachments: signature.asc

Dear Sirs:

As the volunteer speech and debate coach at Conestoga High School in the Tredyffrin Easttown School District, I write to oppose the imposition of Keystone exams as a qualification for graduation from high school in Pennsylvania.

Having worked directly with students for over ten years, I have seen an increasing emphasis on standardized testing, and a corresponding decrease in the effort and time allotted to teaching the fundamental skills of research, analysis, critical thinking, and persuasive communication that is essential for every citizen. Imposing yet another sequence of examinations on our students will further damage our schools' ability to provide adequate instruction and experience in these areas, and will, as a result, damage the quality of the education we provide.

I urge you to recommend that the approximately \$300 million cost of implementing the Keystone exams be invested, instead, in education in core skills such as rhetoric, digital literacy that promise our students an edge in both higher education and in the job market of the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Husick, Esq.
Coach, Voices - Conestoga Speech and Debate
 Voice +1 (610) 296-8259 Fax +1 (610) 514-0388
 IM/Skype: LawHusick

"It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry."

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955) - Autobiographical Notes

"I may safely predict that the education of the future will be inventive-minded. It will believe so profoundly in the high value of the inventive or creative spirit that it will set itself to develop that spirit by all means within its power."

- Harry A. Overstreet (1875-1970)

"I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

- Albert Einstein



[\[+\] Add me to your address book](#)