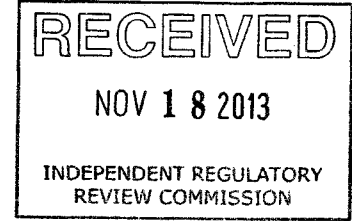


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**Cooper, Kathy**

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**From:** Christopher Seymore <cseymore@ridleysd.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2013 1:23 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Opposition to Keystone Graduation Exams



Good afternoon:

The idea that standardized tests will dictate whether a student graduates high school is fundamentally wrong. It's also a waste of taxpayer dollars that will result in less real classroom learning, and more and more teachers simply teaching to the test. In addition, this amounts to an unfunded mandate that will result in massive increases in property taxes. Spending multiple weeks on test prep and the actual administration of the tests themselves is a waste of valuable classroom time. The Corbett administration is simply wrong. There is a reason why nearly all of the superintendants and school boards around the state oppose the Keystone graduation exams. Further, the costs of remediation will be disproportionately felt by the lower-performing school districts, which also happen to be the districts that involve lower socio-economic groups and are already financially disadvantaged by an inequitable public education system.

Please reject the Keystone graduation exams. They are not in the best interest of Pennsylvania high school students, and they are not in the best interest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

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