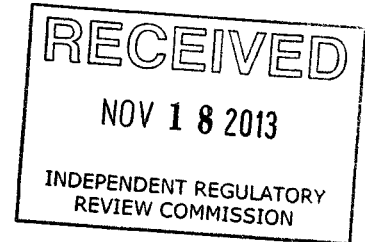


Cooper, Kathy

From: susanzucidlo <srzrrz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 4:54 PM
To: David Sumner
Subject: Keystone Exams



To: Mr. David Sumner Ex Dir

IRRC

From: Susan F. Rzucidlo, Advocate and Mom.

Landenberg PA

Dear Honorable Commission,

I am writing today to ask you to reject the PA School Boards recommended regulation that would require passing the Keystone Exams to be the full measure of a students' educational career. As an advocate for many children who live with, struggle against and many times overcome various learning disabilities, I know that requiring a single exam or cluster of 3 exams to determine if a student should or should not receive a high school diploma will result in a significant number of capable but differently-abled students from succeeding in life. This proposal will lead to students who performed well in school but who do poorly on exams to leave their public education without the opportunity to continue their education through community college, trade school or certificate programs because they must have a high school diploma to enter these venues. While possibly, they may be able to get a GED, the PA Board of Education will have added significant cost and delay to a student and their family and many will choose not to continue. The economic cost to our community would be significant and detrimental. Our businesses need students who are capable to work and able to be trained in various careers and trades. The requirement of passing the Keystones does nothing to ensure that our students who have an IEP or 504 plan will transition into a successful and independent life. That relegates many students who will not receive a diploma to a second-class citizen status, an unacceptable outcome from a Pennsylvania public school education.

Additionally, if this plan is approved, our school districts will be saddled with yet another unfunded mandate. Our School Boards will be forced to pass that cost on to our taxpayers in the form of unprecedented tax hikes that many cannot bear. Please know, I support accountability in the school and holding the bar high for both student and teacher performance but I do not believe that the requirement that the Keystone exams be used as the only measure of acceptable academic performance is going to lead Pennsylvania public schools to providing a world-class education that our children deserve.

Please reject the PA Board of Education proposal to require that every student must pass the Keystone exam in order to graduate.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to following your decision.

Respectfully,

Susan F. Rzucidlo

Susan Rzucidlo
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