



455 South Gulph Road  
Suite 307  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
610 878 9111 Phone  
610 878 5525 Fax

2976

November 18, 2013

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III  
Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14<sup>th</sup> floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Email: [irrc@irrc.state.pa.us](mailto:irrc@irrc.state.pa.us)

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

I am writing to express my strong support for final-form regulation #6-326 (Academic Standards and Assessments) that adopts the Pennsylvania Core Standards in English and math and aligned assessments, including Keystone Exams. The regulation also includes important safeguards and supports to ensure struggling students have the extra help they need to succeed.

TMG Health employs 1,200 Pennsylvanians with a variety of skill sets. Many of our associates hold college and graduate degrees, but many who are employed in good-paying jobs with strong benefits and the ability to telecommute have earned only a high school diploma. Common across all our team, however, is the need to read and write well, to perform basic mathematics, and to work in a team environment. In short we all must have mastered the knowledge that forms the core of additional education and training.

For too long, Pennsylvania has been graduating students who are not prepared for careers or post-secondary education. About one-third of students who graduate from high school in the Commonwealth – about 44,000 each year – do not score at a level indicating proficiency or advanced on the state's 11<sup>th</sup> grade reading and math assessments.

Pennsylvania needs a vibrant educational system with rigorous, internationally benchmarked standards and aligned assessments that demonstrate proficiency or identify the need for additional instruction before students are moved on to other course work.

I believe the Pennsylvania Core Standards and assessments that include the Keystone Exams meet these needs. I believe these academic standards and assessments are two important steps that will help Pennsylvania produce students with the skills to be successful and to help businesses like mine succeed and grow.

I urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to approve the final-form regulation and ensure that all our students have a strong academic foundation on which to build productive and successful lives. Our students and our economy will benefit.

Sincerely,

John T. Tighe, III  
President & CEO