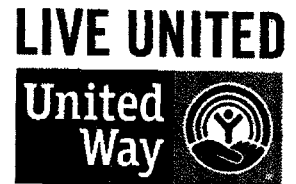


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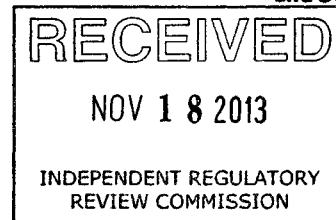


United Way
of Greater Philadelphia
and Southern New Jersey

2976

November 18, 2013

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III
Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St., 14th floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:


On behalf of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, I am writing to express support for Common Core Standards in Pennsylvania.

United Way's work in education focuses on bolstering a child's ability to thrive during critical transition points in their educational journey, such as when they need to enter school ready to learn, read at grade level in third grade and make the transition from middle school to high school and graduate with the 21st century skills necessary to move on to a career of post-secondary education.

An essential component of meeting that goal is ensuring that kids stay on track in school and are able to be competitive when they enter the workforce. The standards ensure that Pennsylvania students are meeting necessary educational achievement levels so that they can perform as well or better than students from other states and around the world. Supporting the standards will help ensure that Pennsylvania's youth are well positioned to take on the challenges of a competitive global marketplace.

Common Core standards coupled with adequate funding for evidence-based programs will help students achieve with the resources necessary to meet the state academic standards and move on to college and the workforce. The United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey supports implementation of these standards as a tool for the Commonwealth to keep up with a competitive economy and help foster a new wave of entrepreneurs and leaders.

Sincerely,


Jill M. Michal
President & CEO