

Cooper, Kathy

2976

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IRRC

From: SALAK, JENNIFER [JENPETERS@ytech.edu]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2012 10:11 AM
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: New graduation requirements

2012 OCT 19 PM 2: 07

Dear Ms. Molchanow,

Are there going to be exceptions for student with disabilities? In my experience, those with severe disabilities have been unable to reach at least a Proficient or above in all areas of the PSSA, let alone any other standard assessment that has been given. With the use of co-teaching and technology, the special education population is accomplishing great feats and lofty goals. However, I think it is unrealistic to think that every special education student is going to be able to meet this high standard.

In looking at the subject areas that are going to be needed to graduate, how do they relate to the skills that the majority of students need to be successful in their career after graduation. I really think the state needs to focus more on preparing these students for jobs and daily living skills that will make them productive citizens rather than having the teachers try to cram their brains with Algebra, Literature, and Biology that is not going to be relevant in their everyday life. We have teachers that are trying to teach 30 plus students everyday with different learning styles and levels as well as follow all the IEP and 504 Plans to ensure that every student is receiving FAPE. If passing these exams is going to be a requirement, I see a higher dropout rate upon us.

We need to worry about lowering class size, providing teachers with the tools and training to teach a variety of students, and find a way to make learning fun so that students enjoy coming to school. Everyone is so worried about getting through the curriculum and concepts; however in the process, students become resentful, overworked, stressed, and even depressed. I can't tell you the number of times that a student has come into my office crying because they can't handle all the pressure. I don't know where the system has gone so wrong, but we need to take a stand and make student's education more of a priority. If politicians can raise all this money to campaign, why can't we find more money to fund education. All I hear about is cuts, cuts, and more cuts for education, but the school staff is supposed to do more with less. How many others are taking the necessary cuts needed to balance the budget? How are we still able to give tax cuts to the upper class while the middle class seem to have to pay more and more. When it comes to new contracts and salaries, it is not the ones at the top of the pay scale or those making six figures who suffer, it is the those that do most of the work that lose out. Being in the school system, I have seen way too many students receive SSI and disability that should not get it. That money could be better spent on those who have worked all their life and need affordable healthcare.

Sincerely,

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Notice: In November 2011 York Tech initiated a new email address domain name for all of the school's email addresses along with an improved school web page(www.YTECH.EDU). The new email domain is YTECH.EDU. The email addresses ending in @ycstech.org will continue to function so that emails will not be

interrupted. For example: jdoe@ycstech.org will be jdoe@ytech.edu. Emails sent from York Tech will be with the @ytech.edu address, in January 2012.

York Tech's web page can be accessed at WWW.YTECH.EDU or www.ycstech.org.

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