

Hoffman, Stephen F.

2976

From: Micah Bertin [micahbertin@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2012 6:45 AM
To: 'Micah Bertin'
Subject: Opposition to Keystone Exams

Form Letter A 15-19

I am a resident of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, and I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to Chapter 4 regulations regarding high school graduation requirements. Students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District have historically experienced high degrees of success in college and the workplace, and I am concerned that the addition of high-stakes exit exams may have the unintended consequence of hindering students who are proficient but do not always demonstrate the fullest extent of their skills in a traditional testing environment. Beyond my opposition to the concept of graduation exams, I am further concerned by the following components of the proposed regulations:

- In addition to the Algebra 1, Literature and Biology Keystone Exam requirements, the State plans to add an exam in English Composition for the class of 2019 and beyond and a Civics and Government exam for the class of 2020 and beyond. Two separate tests in English Composition are unnecessary and a poor use of taxpayer resources. A Civics and Government exam will require expensive restructuring of high school curricula across the State because many local districts will need to move the related course out of the junior or senior year to an earlier year. The costs to local taxpayers for textbooks alone may exceed \$100,000 to facilitate such a change.
- The requirement of three years of instruction prior to an alternative assessment places an undue burden on students, limits their ability to choose other courses, and could harm the college admissions process. The alternative assessment path should be made available at an earlier point.
- Will this unfunded mandate permit flexibility for high-performing schools with a record of success and also provide additional support for struggling schools? Is this another State remedy that assumes "one size fits all?"
- Our school district is struggling with financial "sustainability" as the State continues to reduce its contributions to local districts, places limitations on district's ability to raise revenue, and then adds another layer of financial cost with no state assistance.

As a result, I urge you to amend the proposed Chapter 4 regulations to reflect these concerns. Thank you.

Micah Bertin
32 militia hill drive
Wayne PA 19087
610.505.6462

2012 OCT 26 AM 10:01

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Dear State Official:

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As a result, I urge you to amend the proposed Chapter 4 regulations to reflect these concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tricia Petrane 
70 East Conestoga Road
Devon, PA 19333

2012 OCT 26 AM 11: 25

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OCT 22 2012

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Dear State Official,

**PA. STATE BOARD
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- cost with no state assistance.

As a result, I urge you to amend the proposed Chapter 4 regulations to reflect these concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

 Jill Graser
 215 S. Fairfield Rd.
 Devon, Pa 19333

2012 OCT 26 PM 2:28

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OCT 25 2012

Dear State Official:

**PA. STATE BOARD
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I am a resident of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District and I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to Chapter 4 regulations regarding high school graduation requirements. Students in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District have historically experienced high degrees of success in college and the workplace, and I am concerned that the addition of high-stakes exit exams may have the unintended consequence of hindering students who are proficient but do not always demonstrate the fullest extent of their skills in a traditional testing environment. Beyond my opposition to the concept of graduation exams, I am further concerned by the following components of the proposed regulations:

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Sincerely,

John B Lander
12 Revere Rd
Berwyn, Pa
19312

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OCT 25 2012

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Sincerely,

Barbara A Lander
12 Revere Rd
Berwyn, Pa
19312

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