

2974

Form Letter A 26-34

RECEIVED RECEIVED
IRRC

OCT 26 2012

PA. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION NOV -2 AM 9:39

Dear State Official:

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.

Sincerely,

Chelsea E Lander
12 Revere Rd
Berwyn, Pa
19312

2976

RECEIVED
IRRC

To the State Board of Education:

2012 NOV -2 AM 9:39

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 using up class time that could otherwise have been used for instruction, and take away from the learning experience rather than adding to it.

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.
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- 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 unfunded cost.

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

Sincerely,



Per Ohstrom
411 S Waterloo Rd
Devon, PA 19333

Cooper, Kathy 2976

RECEIVED
IRRC

From: John Genovese [john@snjinc.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 10:59 AM
To: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us; ED, State Board of Ed; andy@pasen.gov; dmiine@pahousegop.com; wkampf@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; dmiine@pahousegop.com
Subject: Amend Chapter 4 Regulations
Importance: High

Dear State Board of Education:

I am a resident of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District. 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. I am concerned 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 plus 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.
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- 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.

Sincerely,

John Genovese
S&J Associates, Inc.
1100 W. Valley Road
Wayne, PA 19087
610-254-9202
610-254-9532 Fax
610-517-0120 Cell

Cooper, Kathy

2976

RECEIVED

IRRC

From: Elisa Rodgers [earodgers@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2012 11:41 PM
To: ED, State Board of Ed
Subject: Keystone Exams

2012 NOV -2 AM 9: 40

October 30, 2012

Ms. Karen Molchanow

Executive Director, State Board of Education
333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Ms. Molchanow:

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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- 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.
- 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.
- I am very concerned about taking away additional class time from our students as well as putting on additional stress on them for no potential gains.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elisa A. Rodgers

1771 Indian Run Road

Malvern, PA 19355-9715

2976

RECEIVED
IRRC

Cooper, Kathy

From: John Genovese [john@snjinc.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2012 10:59 AM
To: IRRC; ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov; andy@pasenate.com; wkampf@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; dmiilne@pahousegop.com
Subject: Amend Chapter 4 Regulations
Importance: High

2012 NOV 7 2 AM 9:41

Dear State Board of Education:

I am a resident of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District. 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. I am concerned 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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- 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.

Sincerely,

John Genovese
 S&J Associates, Inc.
 1100 W. Valley Road
 Wayne, PA 19087
 610-254-9202
 610-254-9532 Fax
 610-517-0120 Cell

RECEIVED
IRRC

2976

2012 NOV -2 AM 9: 41

100 Walker Road
Wayne, PA 19087
November 2, 2012

Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)

333 Market Street
14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Sirs:

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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- 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.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Dolley

2976

241 Highland Avenue
Devon, PA 19333
(610) 687-4807
cinjimsil@yahoo.com

RECEIVED
IRRC

2012 NOV -2 AM 9: 59

October 25, 2012

State Board of Education

Pennsylvania Department of Education - State Board of Education
333 Market Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

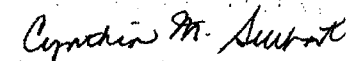
To the State Board of Education

As a resident and parent of two children in 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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- 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.

Sincerely,


Cynthia M Sillhart

2976

Cooper, Kathy

RECEIVED
IRRC

From: Ann Pereira-Ogan [apereiraogan@remed.com]
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 9:41 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Keystone Exams

2012 NOV -2 AM 10: 48

Dear State Official:

I am a resident of the Radnor 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 Radnor 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 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.
- One size does not fit all. Will this unfunded mandate permit flexibility for high-performing schools with a record of success and also provide additional support for struggling schools?
- 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, I am concerned about the financial burden this will place on all school districts..

As a parent, I can tell you that Radnor School District has met the needs educational of my children perfectly. I have two very different learners – one gifted and one grade level. Between the PSSA's, MAP Tests and in class tests, I think they are tested enough without adding the burden to them and the teachers without adding the Keystone Exams to this agenda. The teachers, guidance counselors and administration in Radnor School District are very proactive about adding support services as soon as they see the need for them. Our children all well-prepared for their future, whether that means advancing a grade, in the short term, or being successful in college or the workplace in the long term. The Keystone Exams can only impact this negatively, in my opinion.

As a taxpayer, quite frankly, I can tell you that my taxes are high enough.

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

Sincerely,

Ann Pereira-Ogan

120 Moscia Lane
Wayne, PA 19087
610-254-0758

Cooper, Kathy

2976

RECEIVED
IRRC

From: Michelle Leonatti [mleonatti67@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2012 2:08 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: No more standardized tests!

2012 NOV -2 PM 2:11

Dear IRRC:

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

Sincerely,
Michelle Leonatti
301 Windsor Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087