

Cooper, Kathy

2976

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IRRC

From:
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 5:32 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Fw: IRRC Website - New Message

2012 NOV -6 AM 10: 04

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us [mailto:ContactForm@state.pa.us]
Sent: Sunday, November 04, 2012 05:21 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

First Name: Catherine

Last Name: Oxendale

Company:

Email: cmoxendale@comcast.net

Subject: IRRC Number 2976

Message:

I oppose the Keystone exams for the following reasons: Every person (I.e. student) is different and unique. If our education system was structured accordingly, we would have a state where students are highly motivated, interested in learning, and scoring high in assessments because they are enjoying the education process. Students would not be dropping out of school at record rates. I have been a teacher for the past ten years and it grieves me to think that in a world where we claim to have so much knowledge and wisdom that we would be so foolish as to expect identical standards of learning for every student. We already teach to a standards test and it has failed. When we "grow" up we don't continue this same value into adulthood. We do not have tests in parenting or marriage. We do not expect nor test for identical standards in the workplace or for citizenship. Corporations and business do not expect the same knowledge, skills and standards for accountants as they do for the computer programmer or the nurses. We do not test United States citizens to see if they are "educated" enough to vote responsibly. Why then do we feel this is appropriate and helpful in education? Every individual has natural gifts and talents. Every individual sitting of your board can relate to this. Every one of you have certain gifts, talents and skills that have come naturally. When you graduated from school you were free to pursue a college degree in a major of your choice and you were free to obtain a job in any field that you wanted. If you lacked skills in a area that prohibited you from obtaining employment, you were free (and usually eager) to obtain the skills necessary to fill that void so that you could continue on in your career path. No one forced you to become a doctor and no one forced you to become an educator. These were choices that you were free to make after you decided what you truly enjoyed doing and where you had natural interests and talents. We currently have objective assessments that measure our students progress and achievement. It is foolish to spend (additional) exorbitant amounts of time and money on these ridiculous expectations that will NEVER be met.

There are many, many reasons why these exams are a bad idea as you can see from the comments you have received. Trying to push this through while most citizens are distracted (as they should be) on the current election process is unethical, and is hopefully, not the type of standards that you would have in mind for the education of the students of Pennsylvania. Sincerely, Catherine A. Oxendale