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Souderton Area
School District
Souderton Area High School

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October 25, 2012

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

RE: Concerns about Chapter 4 (Keystone Exams and Graduation Requirements)

Dear Ms. Molchanow:

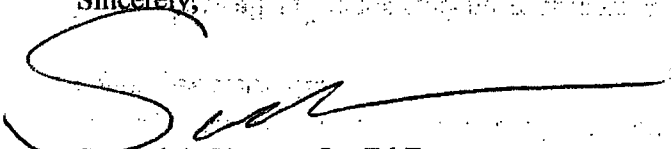
Since their initial conception, I have supported the idea of end of course exams (i.e., Keystone Exams); however, the Commonwealth's **transition plan** for classes prior to the Class of 2017 is **highly problematic**.

By requiring all 11th grade students to take what are supposed to be end of course exams two and three years after completing the course is unthinkable. I would **strongly recommend** that the **Commonwealth reconsider** this transition plan to allow Keystone Exams to serve as true end of course exams. It seems as though the transition plan for satisfying both graduation requirements and AYP would be quite simple:

- The Classes of 2014, 2015, and 2016 take PSSAs in 11th grade for the same purposes as have been done in the past.
- Beginning with the Class of 2017, students take Keystone Exams upon completion of Keystone courses.

The current transition plan essentially nullifies the concept of Keystone Exams being end of course exams for many students. Please, I urge you for the sake of students and educators across Pennsylvania to **reconsider this transition plan**.

Sincerely,


Samuel A. Varano, Jr., Ed.D
Principal