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**Agenda IX, C: Resolution Not to Fund New Keystone State Testing**

VIA: Richard Gusick, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Staff Development and Planning

**Action Under Consideration:** That the Board of School Directors adopts the following resolution after which the resolution will be conveyed to the local State Representatives, Senators, and to Pennsylvania school districts.

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING KEYSTONE EXAMS  
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TREDYFFRIN/EASTTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MARCH 24, 2014**

WHEREAS, the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District provides meaningful academic instruction and assessment that engages students as critical and creative thinkers and successfully prepares these students for college and careers; and

WHEREAS, the District continues to oppose the current implementation of Keystone Exams due to the overemphasis of a single test as a graduation requirement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed current Chapter 4 regulations for Academic Standards and Assessment require for graduation a proficient score on the Literature, Algebra 1 and Biology Keystone Exams beginning with the class of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the proposed regulations further require for graduation a proficient score on the English Composition Keystone Exam beginning with the class of 2019 and the Civics and Government Keystone Exam beginning with the class of 2020; and

WHEREAS, an additional Keystone Exam in English Composition adds expenses for the State and local districts to the Language Arts content area which is already tested in the Keystone Exam for Literature; and

WHEREAS, Civics and Government is currently taught to many juniors and seniors in Pennsylvania, requiring many Districts to fully restructure high school Social Studies curricula so that Civics and Government courses are taught in earlier grades, incurring the expenses of new textbooks and professional development, to enable students to have multiple opportunities to pass the Civics and Government Keystone Exam; and

WHEREAS, the State shall incur test development costs and the ongoing legacy costs of test distribution, collection, scoring, reporting, and the related costs of project-based assessments; and

WHEREAS, local districts shall incur the costs of test scheduling, proctoring, reporting, and tracking, as well as providing supplemental instruction for students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the English Composition and Civics and Government exams; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the expansion to five Keystone Exams, some Pennsylvania students may be required to experience simultaneous supplemental instruction in as many as five Keystone Exam courses; and

WHEREAS, the students, parents, local districts, and the State have not yet been able to assess the impact and effectiveness of the original three Keystone Exams; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 states that the English Composition and Civics and Government Keystone Exams are subject to funding by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 4 requires all school districts to participate in a field test of the English Composition Keystone Exam during the 2014-2015 school year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to limit the Keystone Exams to Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Assembly explicitly withholds funds in the 2014-2015 State budget for any Keystone Exams beyond the original three; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that General Assembly enacts legislation that prohibits future funding for any additional Keystone Exams.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014

Signed,

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School Board President

\_\_\_\_\_ Board Secretary (seal)

1. Questions from the Board
2. Comments and/or Questions from Community Members
3. Board Discussion/Deliberation/Action