

Agenda

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

Recommended Action: That the Board of School Directors adopts the following resolution after which the resolution will be conveyed to local state representatives and senators, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, the State Board of Education and to Pennsylvania school districts.

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING CHANGES TO CHAPTER 4 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TREDYFFRIN/EASTTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 22, 2012**

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

WHEREAS, the District supports efforts to appropriately measure student attainment of state and local academic standards using measures of accountability and performance that employ multiple, ongoing methods of assessment for knowledge, skills and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the District has previously opposed the 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 a content area that 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 proposed regulations require three years of instruction in a course for nonproficient students, including one year of original instruction and two years of supplemental instruction for non-senior students, before permitting an appropriate project-based assessment to demonstrate proficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Chapter 4 regulations on the whole provide yet another “one size fits all” solution for school accountability rather than focusing resources on schools truly in need of improvement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District urges the State Board of Education to eliminate high-stakes end-of course exams as graduation requirements for Pennsylvania students, empowering local districts to determine graduation requirements and be held accountable by local residents for student achievement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Keystone Exams be limited to Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature for federal accountability requirements only; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that schools and students be allowed maximum flexibility with exam retakes, supplemental instruction, and alternative project-based assessments in order for local professionals to provide the type of instruction and assessment students need at the appropriate time for each individual student.

Adopted this 22nd day of October 2012

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary (seal)