

RESOLUTION OPPOSING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXAM

**Adopted by the Board of School Directors of the
Radnor Township School District
on October 22, 2013**

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District is committed to preparing all students for success in college and the workplace by providing a challenging and rich curriculum that focuses on developing in students a passion for learning, personal integrity, the pursuit of excellence and social responsibility; and

WHEREAS, some Radnor Township School District students have consistently shown understanding of state standards through a variety of assessments including course exams, portfolios, oral presentations, hands-on demonstrations, as well as other nationally-recognized exams, demonstrating that the rigors of the curriculum more than satisfy state standards, but those students have not scored proficient on one or more Keystone Exams; and

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township School District recognizes the importance of the PA Common Core and its related assessments and will use the Keystone and local assessments to provide the District with information about students in need of remediation; and

WHEREAS, basing important decisions on limited and imperfect information can harm students, teachers, and communities; and increasing student stress and further diminishing instructional time; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams graduation requirement will cause an increase in remediation courses which will have economic impact on districts operating under Act 1 fiscal constraints and on taxpayers across the Commonwealth, and these required expenditures have no proof of cost effectiveness and represent an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Keystone Exams graduation requirement will necessitate remediation courses which will reduce a student's ability to select electives *to empower them to discover and pursue their individual passions with knowledge, confidence, and caring to shape the future* as outlined in our Board approved Mission Statement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Radnor Township School District opposes the State Board of Education approved final-form revisions to Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessment) and any other regulations or legislation that usurp the authority of local school districts to determine whether their students have earned high school diplomas. The District seeks support from other school boards, local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees in petitioning the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to bifurcate approval of Chapter 4, approving language pursuant to PA Common Core and removing language requiring the unfunded mandate of passing graduation exams.

This resolution will be shared with the Pennsylvania School Board Association for dissemination to Commonwealth School Districts, Intermediate Unit's, local legislators and members of the Senate and House Education Committees, and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Attest:

Timothy E. Vail, Board Secretary

Date