



Twin Valley School District

November 18, 2013

The Honorable Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III
Chairman, Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Email: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Re: Regulation #6-326: Academic Standards and Assessment

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte,

On behalf of the students, staff and board of directors of the Twin Valley School District, we are writing to express the district's strong support for the Final-Form Regulation #6-326 related to academic standards and assessments. We urge the Independent Regulatory Review Commission's approval.

Without the adoption of this regulation school districts will continue to operate under Chapter 4 as adopted in 2010, causing undue hardship and stress on an already over-regulated system. Three key areas of concern include:

1. The requirement of the development and implementation of Keystone Exams for 10 subject areas. If the revision is not passed students and staff will spend an inordinate amount of time in the preparation and administration of tests. This time could better be used to enrich learning opportunities for students.
2. The Keystone Exams, which reflect a snapshot of time, and represent a single day in a student's academic life, would be calculated as at least one-third of his/her grade.
3. Local chief school administrators would lose the ability to grant graduation waivers on a case-by-case basis, thus taking away the ability of a district to decide what is best for its students.

We highly encourage you and your commission to consider the passage of the Final-Form Regulations #6-326.

Sincerely,

Gary McEwen
School Board Vice-President

Robert Pleis
Superintendent