
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 249 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, COSTA,
FARNESE, FERLO, FONTANA, HUGHES, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LEACH,
SCHWANK, SMITH, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, TEPLITZ,
WASHINGTON, WILEY, WILLIAMS, WOZNIAK AND YUDICHAK,
OCTOBER 24, 2013

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 24, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the sense of the Senate in regard to the regulatory
2 review of the State Board of Education final-form regulation
3 #006-326, amending 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4.

4 WHEREAS, The amendment of the Chapter 4 regulations, as
5 contained in the State Board of Education final-form regulation
6 #006-326, amending 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic
7 standards and assessment), changes the utilization of the
8 standardized Keystone Exams from calculating a percentage of a
9 student's final grade for a course to a high-stakes requirement
10 for the student's graduation where the student must pass certain
11 Keystone Exams to graduate; and

12 WHEREAS, The final-form regulations also require that
13 supplemental instruction be offered to students who do not
14 demonstrate proficiency on a Keystone Exam or a local assessment
15 exam; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the past seven months, the Department of
17 Education has refused to release the scores of the recent

1 administration of the current Keystone Exams, despite repeated
2 requests from State legislators; and

3 WHEREAS, Disclosure of nonidentifiable student scores for the
4 current Keystone Exams would provide guidance to school
5 districts on the total projected number of students who would
6 require supplemental instruction to demonstrate proficiency on
7 the Keystone Exams; and

8 WHEREAS, The final-form regulation's continued requirement
9 for supplemental instruction will result in significant
10 additional costs for school districts to assist students in
11 achieving proficiency in the State academic standards; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education in its final-form
13 regulation contends that the changes proposed in the regulations
14 in regard to supplemental instruction and the administration of
15 the Keystone Exams will not incur additional costs to school
16 districts; and

17 WHEREAS, Since school year 2010-2011, total classroom funding
18 for public education in this Commonwealth has been slashed by
19 more than \$2.6 billion over the three preceding school years
20 during the current administration, an average annual reduction
21 of 10.66% over those school years; and

22 WHEREAS, School districts in response to these annual
23 reductions in total classroom funding have implemented drastic
24 cost-cutting measures and other reductions in expenses,
25 including reducing or discontinuing summer school and after-
26 school tutoring, and in some instances furloughing instructional
27 personnel; and

28 WHEREAS, The financial constraints necessitated by the
29 reductions in total classroom funding imposed during this
30 administration significantly reduce the ability of school

1 districts to provide necessary and mandatory supplemental
2 instruction to students who may require such assistance; and

3 WHEREAS, Students who do not receive the necessary
4 supplemental instruction to enable those students to demonstrate
5 proficiency on the Keystone Exams will not graduate unless they
6 complete an alternative project-based assessment or if they
7 cannot complete the project-based assessment, they are included
8 under a graduation waiver granted by a chief school
9 administrator; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That for all of the above reasons, it is the sense
11 of the Senate that the changes contained in the final-form
12 regulation #006-326, as proposed by the State Board of Education
13 regarding the use of Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement
14 and the continued requirement for supplemental instruction are
15 not in the public interest, especially for students and
16 taxpayers in this Commonwealth; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate strongly urge the Independent
18 Regulatory Review Commission to disapprove the State Board of
19 Education final-form regulation #006-326, amending 22 Pa. Code
20 Chapter 4.