

- **On a vote of 13 -4, the State Board of Education approved the revisions to Chapter 4 and the PA Core Standards.**
- There was very little, if any, opposition to the revisions of the PA Core Standards as everyone agreed that higher standards were indeed needed.
- The biggest change from earlier versions of the PA Core Standards and Assessments was that the student transcripts will no longer indicate HOW a student passed the assessment, but rather just the achievement level. In the past, many people spoke out against having the transcript indicate whether the student passed by the exam or the project. PDE did listen to the field and made the change to drop how the student passes.
- The opposition still centers around the Keystone Exams and using them as a graduation requirement. In addition, there is fear that the costs associated with remediation efforts will result in a decline of electives for students, decreased services across the district and a lack of both people and other related resources.
- When it came time for the vote, a member asked if an amendment could be made to “decouple” the assessments from the standards. However, the chair put the vote to the floor without an amendment. Once the vote was taken, another member asked what governing rules they were following and the answer was Robert Rules of Order. The member then pointed out that Roberts Rules allow for an amendment to be brought forward in which the amendment is voted on first. Since the chair did not allow an amendment to come forward, there appears to be a problem with the way the vote was taken. I suspect this will be an issue for a future meeting.