



Consequences of Not Adopting Revised Chapter 4 Regulations

Pennsylvania Core Standards and the Keystone Exams

November 8, 2013

- Without IRRC's approval of the revised Chapter 4 regulations, the Commonwealth would revert to the regulations adopted in 2010, which took effect on July 1, 2013. Specifically, the following would apply:
 - Approves the adoption of the national Common Core State Standards.
 - Requires the development and implementation of Keystone Exams in 10 subject areas.
 - Requires students in the class of 2015 to demonstrate proficiency on six of the 10 keystones in order to graduate.
 - Requires a student's performance on the Keystone Exams to be calculated as at least one-third of his/her course grade. This would need to occur retroactively for those students who already took the Keystone Exams beginning with the class of 2015 and transcripts would need to be revised to reflect the recalculated grade.
 - Requires that a student's transcript include the score attained on the Keystone Exams.
 - Requires each student to complete a culminating graduation project.
 - Requires school districts to complete strategic planning.
 - Authorizes only the Secretary of Education to grant graduation waivers on a case-by-case basis for students with extenuating circumstances. Local chief school administrators could only request that a waiver be provided.
 - Does not address language regarding whether the Department may implement the national Common Core tests, mandated curriculum, requirement for specific textbook and reading lists, and collection of additional data on students and their families.
 - Requires the Department to realign the PSSAs and Keystone Exams to the national Common Core State Standards, which would result in significant costs, or would require the department to use the national Common Core exams to assess students.

- IRRC's approval of the revised Chapter 4 regulations puts in place:
 - Approves the Pennsylvania Core Standards, which were created by Pennsylvania educators, to replace the national Common Core State Standards.
 - Reduces the number of Keystone Exams required for graduation from 10 to five; thus reducing the amount of supplemental instruction.
 - Reduces the amount of time students would be taking tests.
 - Moves the date for students to demonstrate proficiency to meet state graduation requirements on the Keystone Exams from the class of 2015 to the class of 2017.
 - Eliminates the reference on student transcripts as to how students earned proficiency on Keystone Exams.
 - Removes the requirement for the Keystone Exams to count as one-third of a course grade.
 - Eliminates the culminating graduation project for each student.
 - Eliminates the requirement for schools to complete strategic plans.
 - Removes the Secretary of Education from the role of making Keystone Exam waiver determinations and allows the decision to be made by the local chief school administrator.
 - Includes language preventing the department from using the national Common Core tests; from mandating curriculum, textbooks and reading lists; from expanding the collection of student data.
 - Eliminates the need to realign PSSAs and Keystone Exams to the Common Core State Standards. Eliminates the added cost of realigning these exams, or the potential for the national Common Core tests to be administered in Pennsylvania.

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