



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PA Partnerships for Children Lauds Final Approval of Keystone Exams Standards will Help Ensure Students are Prepared for College & Workforce

(HARRISBURG), Aug. 13, 2009 – Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) today released a statement on the final approval by the State Board of Education requiring Pennsylvania students to pass end-of-course exams to receive a high school diploma. The exams will help prepare more students for postsecondary education and will help to reduce the number of students who must take remedial classes when they enter college.

“I commend all parties for coming together and creating a plan that will ensure our students will leave high school prepared for the future,” said Joan L. Benso, president and CEO of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. PPC has long stated that Pennsylvania needs a consistent common-sense accountability and supports system aligned with the state’s academic standards to assure that every child graduates from high school ready for college courses.

“The regulations will assure that more of our children will graduate from high school, college- and career-ready by providing a reliable and consistent assessment system for all students, with appropriate accommodations for diverse learners,” Benso said. “The proposal strikes the right balance between accountability and local control by providing school districts multiple pathways for students to demonstrate proficiency of the state standards and earn a diploma.”

The proposal includes supplemental instruction for students who fail to achieve to the academic standards along with tools for school districts including voluntary model curriculum and diagnostics to find struggling students early in their academic careers. The first group of students to be affected by the proposed requirements would be the class of 2015, entering seventh grade this fall.

(MORE)

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“A cornerstone of the proposal and a long-term condition of support by PPC is the guarantee of supplemental instruction to every student who needs it,” Benso said. “Supplemental instruction coupled with Keystone Exams - as well as other academic supports for schools - provides an effective approach to ensure student success.”

More information is available by contacting Kathy Geller Myers of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) at 717-236-5680 or kgmyers@papartnerships.org. Visit us at www.papartnerships.org

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