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**PA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN RELEASES STATEMENT ON
ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW STANDARDS FOR STATEWIDE EXAMS**
Keystone Exams to be Part of Graduation Requirements

Harrisburg, March 4 – Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) today released a statement regarding an announcement by the chairman of the State Board of Education, Department of Education and PA School Boards Association about an agreement of regulatory language for new standards for statewide exams, to be known as Keystone Exams.

“Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children applauds the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the PA Schools Boards Association for reaching an agreement on regulatory language to ensure that all of our students will be held to the same standards through comparable, validated tools,” said Joan Benso, President and CEO of PA Partnerships for Children. “We offer our full support for the content of the agreement and are committed to working with all parties to make this a reality for our students.”

Every Pennsylvania high school student will be required to demonstrate proficiency in academic standards in reading, writing, math, science and social studies to graduate from high school beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

“This is a critical step to help ensure that there is a consistent, statewide measurement for student proficiency, including a workable option for school districts to have local assessments validated,” Benso said. “This model will help ensure that all Pennsylvania high school graduates are ready for post-secondary education and careers.”

Please contact Kathy Geller Myers, PPC communications director, at 717-236-5680, ext. 208, or kgmyers@papartnerships.org for more information.

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