



Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

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PA Partnerships for Children: Statement on Keystone Exam Accord PPC Says Exit Exams will Assure High School Students are Prepared for Future

HARRISBURG (July 9, 2009) - Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) today released a statement on the agreement reached among education leaders on new end-of-course exams called Keystone exams. The agreement will revise high school graduation requirements to establish consistent statewide measurement of the minimum knowledge and skills that a public high school diploma signifies as well as a system of academic supports to help students achieve. 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 prepared.

The agreement includes elements that were essential for Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children's support including guaranteed remediation, the opportunity for students to retake the exams, including individual modules, reasonable accommodations for diverse learners as well as voluntary model curriculum and local flexibility in assessment models. The Keystone exams will also replace the PSSA which PPC long sought as an element of the proposal.

PPC fully supports this agreement and believes it will have a positive impact on thousands of students in Pennsylvania who are graduating from high school without a guarantee they have mastered core academic concepts.

"I am pleased stakeholders have come together to craft a plan that honors our commitment to students and works for other key stakeholders," said Joan L. Benso, president and CEO of PA Partnerships for Children. "High school students need to be prepared for the next phase of their lives and we do them a disservice when we allow them to graduate without full confidence they have met the state academic standards This is a huge step forward for Pennsylvania."

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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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