

Dear Friend,

Many of you have already contacted [Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi](#) in support of Senate Bill 1382. If you have not done so already, I strongly urge you to do so now.

[Senate Bill 1382](#) calls for graduation requirements to be determined by local school districts rather than high-stakes assessments required under federal and state laws and developed with no input whatsoever from course teachers.

If we do not act now, high school students beginning with the class of 2017 (those approaching sophomore year) will have to pass high-stakes Keystone Graduation Exams in three subject areas (Algebra I, Biology and Language Arts) in order to earn a diploma.



There is no doubt that these make-or-break exams will lead to more "teaching to the test" and less time for valuable classroom instruction. Furthermore, they set a dangerous precedent of the state and federal government wresting control of graduate requirements away from local school districts.

- If you feel that graduation requirements should be determined by local districts and reflective of a student's total high school record, please act now!
- If you are against the possibility of a student getting straight A's in their classes, but failing one standardized test and not getting a diploma, please act now!
- If you are concerned about the potential for massive property tax increases due to the multi-million dollar unfunded mandate that the Keystones represent, please write to Senator Pileggi today!

It is crucial that we pass Senate Bill 1382 before the Senate adjourns at the end of this month. I have attached a sample letter to Senator Pileggi below. It will be even more effective if you personalize the letter with your own wording. Please also be sure to copy [Senator Mike Folmer, the Majority Chair, of the Senate Education Committee](#) and me, as Minority Chair, on your correspondence to Senator Pileggi. In addition, please know that Senator Pileggi represents [portions of Chester and Delaware counties](#) and if you reside in his district, I encourage you to let him know that you are a constituent in your letter.

Thank you for standing up for Pennsylvania students,

Sincerely,