

Legislation re: the Keystone Exams

The Issue...

We strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to send a message to your state Senator and Senate leadership to ask them to support and take prompt action to approve SB 1382. SB 1382 returns local control of policies on high school graduation requirements to local school districts and would remove criteria that imposes high-stakes assessments required under federal and state laws.

Background...

As you know, under the current Chapter 4 regulations, high school students beginning with the class of 2017 (those currently entering their 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 high school diploma. There is no question that these make-or-break exams will lead to more “teaching to the test” and less time for valuable classroom instruction.

About the Bill...

Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester Co.) recently introduced [SB 1382](#), which provides local school districts discretion over whether they use the Keystone Exams in locally established criteria to determine eligibility for a high school diploma. Under SB 1382, school districts, at their discretion, could choose whether it would consider results from the Keystone Exams in determining eligibility for high school graduation. Districts would be permitted to use results from the Keystone Exam to count as a portion of the course grade, demonstration of proficiency as a graduation requirement or not use the Keystone Exams as graduation requirement criteria at all.

SB 1382 also provides a school district discretion in determining whether it will offer supplemental instructional support to students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the exams and also whether the district will offer students the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency through the project-based assessment.

Why SB 1382?

The broad level of flexibility provided to school districts in SB 1382 aligns closely with the positions that PASA has advocated over time before the State Board of Education and General Assembly.

What To Do...

We encourage you to send a message, using a message template available on the PASA website at www.pasa-net.org/SB1382LTR.docx, to:

- your state senator;
- Chairman of the Senate Education Committee Mike Folmer at mfolmer@pasen.gov;
- Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi at dpileggi@pasen.gov; and
- a copy to Senator Dinniman at AndyDinniman@pasen.gov.

THANK YOU!

