

# ALLEGHENY-CLARION VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. David McDeavitt, Superintendent  
Mrs. Tammy Thompson, Board Secretary  
Dr. Melissa Douglas, Director of Education

Ms. Emmy Foust, Business Manager  
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## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Mrs. Lori Sherman, Principal/Transportation Director



## JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. William Jordan, Principal

Governor Wolf and Secretary Rivera,

This letter is written on behalf of and adopted by the Allegheny-Clarion Valley School Board on November 21, 2016. This letter is written to express our lack of support of the PSSA and Keystone Tests that our students are subjected to in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and the Biology, Algebra and English Language Arts tests taken at the Jr/Sr High School. It is collectively agreed upon by this school board that the testing of our students needs to be reduced so that our educational staff can provide appropriate instruction as we work to ensure that the PA Common Core Standards are taught with fidelity. Testing takes away several days of instructional time, narrows our curricular focus and creates unnecessary financial strain on the district.

We assert that there is too much instructional time lost during state testing sessions, which results in less time for our students to be actively engaged in their learning process. This testing disrupts the day-to-day learning for our students, and since the results from these tests are not returned in a timely manner, they cannot be used to effectively and efficiently guide instructional remediation and/or acceleration. We are also asking that students who attend a career center be omitted from all three Keystone exams after they take and pass the NOCTI exam. In addition to the time lost for testing, we are also concerned with the amount of funds used to create the PSSA test. John Callahan testified at the house democratic policy committee about the state-mandated Exams and noted:

An additional cost to districts is the extensive recordkeeping systems to match students with the Keystone Exams that have been successfully completed and those for which remediation will be necessary. The costs to school districts for implement the required Project Based Assessment (PBA) for those not passing the Keystone is conservatively estimated to be over \$300 million. This means between the state and school districts, Pennsylvania's testing programs since 2008 have cost the taxpayers almost \$1.1 billion. (Testimony to the House Democratic Party September 12, 2016)

The school board, administration and teachers at the Allegheny-Clarion Valley School District ask that the department re-evaluate the current testing process and with the latitude provided through the Every Student Succeeds Act, cut down on the amount of testing.

Sincerely,

The Allegheny-Clarion Valley School Board



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www.acvsd.org

