

RESOLUTION REGARDING EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT IMPLEMENTATION  
by the West Chester Area School District Board of Directors  
June 27, 2016

WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides each state an opportunity to diminish the overuse of high-stakes standardized testing to evaluate students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS, the West Chester Area School District has been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized testing, in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that standardized testing is only one measure of student learning; and

WHEREAS, the West Chester Area School District provides a high standard of creative, meaningful, academic instruction and assessment that helps students achieve their personal best, all of which may be diminished by the narrowing of the curriculum that results from an overemphasis on standardized testing; and

WHEREAS, high-stakes standardized testing may have the greatest negative impact on students with special needs who often demonstrate proficiency through alternative forms of assessment; and

WHEREAS, the West Chester Area School District has a strong model of teacher observation and practice that guides instructional delivery and engages teachers and administrators in its own evaluation program through the use of critical and timely feedback; and

WHEREAS, the West Chester Area School District continues to oppose the State mandate that requires Keystone Exams in all Pennsylvania public schools as graduation requirements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District calls upon its Department of Education and General Assembly to utilize the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act to minimize the amount of mandated testing and the use of standardized testing for teacher and school evaluation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District calls upon the Department of Education and General Assembly to develop an accountability system that is not “one size fits all,” providing local control to the greatest extent possible under the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District calls upon the General Assembly and State Board of Education to permanently separate Keystone exams from high school graduation requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District calls upon the General Assembly to revise Act 82 to eliminate assessment data from educator evaluation and to use observation and practice for 100% of the evaluation for all professional employees.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

Signed,

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School Board President

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Board Secretary (Seal)

**WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**January 23, 2017**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District is aware the topic of property tax elimination is being discussed in the Pennsylvania Senate in an anticipated version of Senate Bill 76,

**WHEREAS**, property tax has been the primary source of funding for Pennsylvania school districts,

**WHEREAS**, the property taxes collected stay in the community in which they are levied,

**WHEREAS**, the proposal does not completely eliminate property taxes and still allows for counties and municipalities to levy taxes,

**WHEREAS**, the West Chester Area School District has been fiscally responsible, providing an excellent education for its students while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in Chester County,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed property tax bill would shift funding of schools to an increase in sales tax from 6% to 7% and an increase in personal income tax from 3.07% to 4.95%,

**WHEREAS**, a shift to an increase in sales tax and state income tax will result in local funds being sent to Harrisburg,

**WHEREAS**, the state legislature will then determine how money is distributed, which completely removes local control from school boards,

**WHEREAS** the proposed funding formula that would eliminate property tax collection does nothing to fund mandates such as special education costs, pension costs, charter school costs, Keystone graduation requirements and other state and federal mandates, and

**WHEREAS**, the implementation of this new formula would result in devastating cuts to school programs.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that WE, the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District, oppose any legislation to eliminate school property taxes.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2017.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF THE  
WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Cherashore  
Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chris McCune  
President

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS TO  
URGE THE GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TO APPROVE A BUDGET FOR 2015-2016**

**WHEREAS**, West Chester Area School District is a municipal corporation and public entity formed by and for the communities of East Bradford Township, East Goshen Township, West Chester Borough, West Goshen Township, Thornbury Township, Westtown Township, and West Whiteland Township in Chester County and Thornbury Township in Delaware County operating under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Public School Code of 1949 as amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS it is the obligation for the General Assembly to provide for the educational needs of its children as stated in the Commonwealth's constitution, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth;" and

WHEREAS, the delay in the budget approval has already caused the delay of state subsidies for the 2014-15 school year in the amount of \$2,737,245; and

WHEREAS, the delay in budget approval has already caused the delay in receipt of year to date state subsidies for the 2015-16 school year in the amount of \$3,747,351; and

WHEREAS, the delay in budget approval has already caused the district to lose \$201,339 from its August allocation of Tax Relief funds; and

WHEREAS, the largest decision made by the Governor and General Assembly is that of passing a state budget; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires the state to pass a budget by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and General Assembly have failed to pass a budget, thus failing to allocate funds to school districts; and

WHEREAS, the budget impasse needs to end before programs and services to children in West Chester and the Commonwealth are severely affected.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that **WE**, the Board of School Directors of the West Chester Area School District urge the General Assembly and the Governor to work together to compromise in order to approve a responsible budget for the 2015-2016 school year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the West Chester Area School District, and to the members of the General Assembly, and to the Governor of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Signed,

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Dr. Ricky L. Swalm, President

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Dr. James R. Scanlon, Superintendent

Attested by:

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Linda P. Cherashore, Board Secretary