
ISC GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES FOR November 12, 2013

Topic: Ins and Outs of Academic Testing (Agenda attached)

Guest Speakers:

- Richard Marta, LMSD Supervisor of K-12 Counseling, Testing & Holistic Supports
- Tina Viletto, Esq., Director of Legislative Services and Grants Development- Montgomery County Intermediate Unit
- Jonathan Tew, Legislative Director, Office of State Senator Daylin Leach

Mr. Marta presented information about the LMSD testing schedule, as well as detailed information about PSSA and Keystone exams. (Please see the attachments to view the [slide presentation](#) and [information about Keystone exams.](#))

Ms. Viletto reviewed the history of state mandated testing in PA and Federal requirements. She provided an update on what is currently happening in Washington and in Harrisburg. The discussion included comments about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization at the Federal level and the adoption of the National Common Core Standards in PA as a revised version called PA Core Standards.

Discussion ensued about the final version of Chapter 4 Regulations, which is currently being reviewed by the PA Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC) and which the IRRC will vote on 11/21. Chapter 4 Regulations link the PA Core Standards with the requirement that Keystone exams be required for PA high school graduation. Fifty-five (55) area superintendents – including LMSD Superintendent Dr. Christopher McGinley – have sent a letter to the IRRC urging that that the Keystone exams not be made a graduation requirement. (The day following the General meeting, the ISC Co-Presidents sent a letter - [attached hereto](#) – to all parents/guardians concerning this topic and included a copy of the Superintendents' letter.)

Mr. Tew discussed legislative activity in the PA Senate Education Committee. The Committee is focused on Testing, Charter School Reform and Child Abuse Reporting. Mr. Tew also noted that a Special Education Formula Spending bill and a Budget Revival bill were recently approved.

A question and answer period followed the presentations.