

NO...To Keystone Exams!

All Students were not created equal. Parents, Community and Educational Leaders of today must remain awake!

My 15 year old twins attend Philadelphia Public High schools just as I did years ago and I choose to support and utilize it like many Parents living here must.

Education is to be celebrated, definitely promoted and it has been one of the great equalizers for our vulnerable and oppressed populations. My Parents realized this and depended on it being part of a brighter future for our family. That first day of school, shiny new lunch bag, three sharpened pencils and new clothes; those signaled the beginning of a prosperous, rewarding life. The class assignments, homework and test were all part of a plan that advanced our lives. The returned test with a letter grade posted at the top of the page told of our comprehension and propelled us forward for more information, more awareness of what we required to navigate families and careers later.

Sometimes a curve ball comes out of nowhere and takes you by surprise. Being lucky enough to appreciate Educators and their love for the art adjustments needed are made and personalized plans take form.

Both my twins are Autistic. One with Aspergers 'and the other with Pervasive Development Disorder. iEP's were added and an means to educate was adopted.

Nowhere in the Keystone exams will you find accommodations for the slight tick my daughter's disability presents. Her Teachers are aware and acknowledge her manner of expressive communications, so much so she performs on honor roll level at a Special Admit Academy.

My son's IEP has been detailed and customized to compliment his showmanship of understanding, his comprehension of material. This is done with a team of therapist, educators and plan that supports his uniqueness. How will the Keystone exam measure our special needs population when it is a standardized assessment and why should any child's body of work be reduced to the score determined by three test within years of education?

It won't, it can't and it shouldn't be continued. We have assessments that haven't harmed or reduced their value as students. We have assessments like the SAT's and PSAT's that help measure growth without challenging the abilities of Educators and demoralizing the achievements of a student's body of work. We can make good choices; we are awake and prepared to not accept anybody's bad deal, even when it comes in the form of a **Standardized Test!!**

Humbly yours,

Tonya Bah

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