

Education Stakeholders Thoughts on 2015 PSSA

“Comparing test scores isn’t useful. When I was in school we stopped running the 100 yard dash and started running 100 meters. It looked like the times were slower. The truth was the distance was longer. It took a little time to get used to the change. But, soon we were winning the gold medals again. We’re asking more of our students and we know they are up to it. Pennsylvania education and Pennsylvania students can lead the nation.”

**David Patti, President and CEO
Pennsylvania Business Council**

“I am a firm believer that preparation breeds success. Rigorous academic standards applied throughout their elementary and secondary school experience will help ensure students are ready to succeed after graduating from high school, whether they choose to continue their education at a college, university or some other post-secondary institution, or to move directly into the workforce.”

**Frank Brogan, Chancellor
Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education**

“Today, Pennsylvania set a new baseline for student achievement across the state, raising the bar to make sure all kids are better prepared for college and careers. The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment is an important measure but just one measure parents, teachers and policymakers can use to see the progress all children are making and identify areas to address in the coming year.”

**Chris Minnich, Executive Director
Council of Chief State School Officers**

“Change is one certainty in the field of education. Superintendents are committed to preparing students for an ever-changing world, regardless of the changes presented in state assessment. Our superintendents, teachers, and staff members continue to be dedicated to providing a high-quality education experience for our students and, in these changing times, we must keep these latest test results in perspective.”

**Dr. Jill Hackman, Executive Director
Berks County Intermediate Unit**

“Students are being challenged to provide deeper analysis, utilize high-level thinking and solving more complex problems. The new PSSA is harder, but as we move forward, student performance will grow and in time scores will increase.”

**Gloria Hancock, assistant to the secretary for curriculum and instruction
Neshaminy School District, Bucks County**

“Standards are important, but we have to back them up with the necessary foundation and resources to help all students achieve.”

**State Rep. James Roebuck, D-Philadelphia, Democratic chairman of the House Education Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

“High standards for all students in Pennsylvania’s public schools are a good thing. We want students to graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills that they need in order to succeed in the adult world. It is important to understand that raising the bar that measures what students should know is a process, one that will require time and a significant investment in resources. We must work to ensure that curriculum and instruction are up to date and students have had a chance to learn the new content before we can use this information in a meaningful way, and even then, standardized tests should only be one tool in a tool box of looking at learning.”

**Susan Gobreski, Director
Education Voters of PA**

“Many employers in Pennsylvania report difficulty finding job applicants with adequate education or training to fill open positions. Aligning education standards with college and workplace expectations and rigorous assessments are critically important to address these workforce challenges and to help ensure the strength of our Commonwealth.”

**Gene Barr, President and CEO
PA Chamber of Business and Industry**