

Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2009

Contact: Stinson Stroup, Exec. Dir.
(717) 540-4448

PASA CALLS FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Harrisburg - PASA Executive Director Stinson Stroup today issued the following statement regarding yesterday's announcement of a revised proposal to use new state exams as part of Pennsylvania's high school graduation requirement:

"Yesterday Joseph Torsella, Chairman of the State Board of Education, announced a compromise plan on 'Graduation Competency Exams.' PASA applauds Mr. Torsella's efforts to find consensus on what the state's graduation requirements should be.

"While it advances the discussion, it should not be the final answer.

"Many school administrators are concerned about the extraordinarily large portion of each student's final course grade (one-third) and grade point average that will be determined by the student's performance on the state test.

"Administrators are also concerned that, under the proposal, some students will get NO credit for the knowledge they **can** demonstrate on the final exam if they score 'below basic.' This is the effect of giving low performing students a 'zero' on the final exam.

"We hope that an open and inclusive discussion will improve upon the good elements of the proposal Mr. Torsella announced yesterday. That discussion will hopefully begin on Tuesday with the scheduled hearing of the Senate Education Committee and continue through the regular regulatory review process.

"PASA and its members hope to be a part of that open public process."

##