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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

November 15, 2001

Peter H. Garland, Ph.D., Executive Director
State Board of Education
333 Market Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

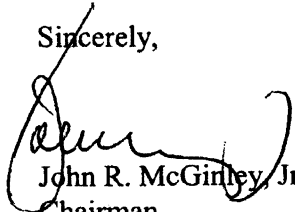
Re: Regulation #6-273 (IRRC #2187)
State Board of Education
Academic Standards and Assessment

Dear Dr. Garland:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation on November 15, 2001. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,


John R. McGinley, Jr.
Chairman

evp

Enclosure

cc: Honorable Jess M. Stairs, Majority Chairman, House Education Committee
Honorable Nicholas A. Colafella, Democratic Chairman, House Education Committee
Honorable James J. Rhoades, Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz, Minority Chairperson, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Charles B. Zogby, Secretary, Department of Education

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held November 15, 2001

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman
Arthur Coccodrilli
Robert J. Harbison, III
John F. Mizner

Regulation No. 6-273
State Board of Education
Academic Standards and Assessment

On April 11, 2001, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the State Board of Education (Board). This rulemaking amends 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4. The proposed regulation was published in the April 21, 2001 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on October 12, 2001.

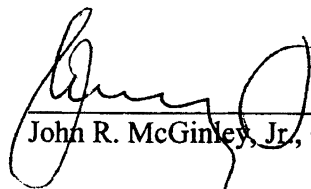
The regulation establishes specific academic standards for the subject areas of Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology. The standards describe what students are expected to know by the end of the fourth, seventh, tenth and twelfth grades.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Board (24 P.S. § 26-2603-B(k)) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.





John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman