

## Some Reasons 80 Percent of Pennsylvania Businesses Polled Support Statewide Graduation Requirements

"Our member businesses need a skilled, local workforce capable of head-to-head competition with workers anywhere in the world to ensure the future vitality of our regional economy."

- *Mark S. Schweiker, President and CEO; David L. Cohen, Board Chair*  
*Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce*

"We don't have time to train workers on what they need to know coming out of high school. Unfortunately, we are finding our high school graduates today are not always ready to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce."

- *Dennis Hickman, President, Allegheny Mountain Hardwood Flooring*

"From my standpoint, it is very expensive and inefficient when I have to dedicate the time of other employees to training new hires on basic skills these people should have received before they received their diplomas. This hurts the competitiveness of my company, and of Pennsylvania firms in general when competing not only with other firms throughout the U.S., but throughout the world."

- *Elmer Gates, Chairman, Embassy Bank*

"Current employers and those considering job creation in the Commonwealth must know that a high school diploma is evidence of a certain consistent level of skill and workforce readiness."

- *Judy Ellis, Chairperson, Mary Cummings, Chairman Government Affairs Committee*  
*Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce*