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From: ptomomcr [ptomomcr@comcast.net]

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Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 2:11 PM**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** State Competency Exams

I am a parent in the Council Rock School District, with my last child graduating in 2009. **I wholeheartedly oppose the implementation of graduation competency exams.** These are students who have gone through their entire junior year tested constantly, and it seems more PSSA tests will be added. That, combined with PSAT, SAT and SAT II tests, makes for a very stressful year, and less instruction than should be provided - testing loses weeks of instruction!

School districts have 13 years of data on these students to assess their readiness to graduate. **The privilege of graduating should not come from a handful of tests, but from 13 years of assessment.**

If there is a perceived problem with students graduating who are not competent, it should be taken up with the individual school districts. The rest of the students should not lose valuable instruction time being tested. When the state usurps the school district's responsibilities, students end up the losers.

The Council Rock School Board approved a resolution against this wholesale testing for a reason. It simply does not make sense and subjects students, many of whom are taking multiple AP courses, to more testing and less instruction.

If the state wants to have better competency in their graduates, fix the funding formula for education, pay teachers better in low performing districts, and provide an appropriate education for all students.

Thank you for soliciting feedback.

Allison MacGahan

5/27/2008