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**Buckheit, James****From:** Brian Pollak [bpollak52@hotmail.com]

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**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2008 12:49 PM**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Graduation Competency Assessment

Hello. I read the story in today's newspaper and had a comment to add to the debate. The news article reads "The Graduation Competency Assessments would be given throughout high school and used as another means of proving a student is worthy of a diploma." I think the real question is why do we give high school graduates a diploma.

If we give graduates a diploma to certify that they are able to perform some type of duty then a test makes sense. For example, to drive a car you need to pass a driving test. Or to practice medicine you need to pass a licensing examination.

If we give graduates a diploma to certify that they have satisfactorily completed 12 years of school curriculum then testing does not make sense.

My personal feeling is that the diploma represents the latter case. Let SATs or other entrance exams help determine who is ready to start a new aspect of their career or education. Thanks for reading this.

-Brian

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