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Buckheit, James

**From:** Cath S [cs61563@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 8:08 AM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Graduation Competency Exams

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

This is in reference to an email I received from our school's PTO about the article in the Courier regarding Graduation Competency Exams in PA. Although I did not get the paper, I had to comment on this topic.

What are we trying to do to our children??? They already do not have enough time to just play and have fun growing up as I did as a child. Let alone the torture of allowing them to be in sports to stay active and healthy and grow in social skills---just to have them come home and STRESS over the abundance of homework and studying they have to do right now. Not to mention, the weekends and family time intruded upon with school work...

Do we not have enough faith in our teachers and education in their present state? Are they not performing as they should? Is that why there would be a need for more tests?! Because I sure don't see it.

Seniors already have classes to maintain, final projects to complete and final exams to pass. To throw this EXTRA testing onto them when they've already been tested out the wazoo, and possibly ruin their opportunity of getting into the college they've already been accepted into is just not right. When the kids make it to Senior year and they earn at least average grades, they have a right to graduate. If something was terribly wrong in a student's performance/education, it should have been caught in earlier years through earlier classes and testing---not wait until they make it to Senior year! That's just pulling the rug right from under them and very unjust. I want the best for my children, and if they need extra help in their education, CATCH IT EARLY ON IN GRADES K-11, not wait until they've become young adults ready to take a new step in getting on with their lives by going on to college or careers.

Respectfully, A Concerned Parent