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Buckheit, James

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**From:** Lois Hann [l-hann@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 27, 2008 12:16 PM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Grad changes

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

I feel we need to make our requirements for graduation stricter than they are now. I worked in a school district for 26 1/2 years and have seen a decline in what is required of all students. Grades are being changed as far as the percentage needed to pass, etc. Our students are not prepared enough when they graduate. I would like to see it done before 2010. Why is it taking that long? We have heard about requirements being increased several years ago, when we monitored other state required testing. Our lower grades need to be required to do better before being passed. Students are not being held back when they aren't doing well. I know a lady that wanted her son held back because he wasn't doing the work well and she felt it best to hold him back a year for his sake, but was told that the program "No Child Left Behind" prevented the principle from holding him back. This is what is wrong with our students, they aren't made work to their full capacity. Learning Support is another program that ruins some of our students. I worked with these also, and their assistants were helping them get good grades by telling them the answers, this doesn't make them think for themselves. I know the schools get money for these type programs, but that doesn't make a better student and then they get the same diploma that a students gets for working really hard to achieve the grades to pass. Hope I didn't take up to much of your time, but I could go on and on. I worked with some 10th graders that couldn't read or write, where are our schools going wrong when a child has been passed up to this grade and couldn't read or write. Something needs to be improved.

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