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2008 MAY 29 AM 9:34

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**Subject:** Graduation Competency Assessments

I think that across the board assessments are not the way to assure that we are teaching our children to become functional contributing adults in our society. My daughters are a perfect example. My oldest had cancer as a young child and the chemo caused her to have difficulties in certain brain functions- mostly math areas. She struggled daily with Math and in keeping up with her classwork. She is not a straight A student by any means but she has other talents- she is an artist and has become a Senior Ladies Freestyle figure skater and now teaches/coaches skating. She has been accepted into one of the best art schools in the country, however she almost didn't get to graduate because of the PSSA math section. She will never use advanced math in her chosen profession so having to complete Algebra 2 was just a time spent in torture for her. I think we need to look at students on a more individual basis and make sure that they have a plan for after high school and skills to achieve that plan. I agree that we can't have students graduating who can't read at all and can't function on a practical Math level, but we need to realize that kids are not punched out of cookie cutters all alike. please look into how we are testing our children and how we look at our students towards becoming competent members of society.

Thank you,

Lois Horn

Plymouth Meeting, PA

5/27/2008