

Buckheit, James

From: theberginbus@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 2:21 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Graduation Competency Assessments

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I would like to register my extreme displeasure at the idea of a state test for high school graduation. First of all, our students are already tested multiple times throughout their school careers. If a student does not score proficient on the PSSAs in 8th grade and/or 11th grade (especially), that should be indication enough that that student is not adequately prepared to graduate from high school. I fail to see how another test in 12th grade will show anything new. Secondly, a state graduation test will inevitably cause a "dumbing down" of the overall curriculum in presently high-achieving school districts as the test becomes the focus of educators. Getting all students to pass this one test will take precedence over enriching the education of most students. Finally, I object to what will undoubtedly become one more unfunded mandate for wealthy school districts and which will then lead to cost cutting and a reduction in programs that are good for kids but that do not teach subject matter that appears on the test. The state would do better to focus its attention on school districts that are failing large numbers of students rather than forcing all districts to conform to one model. I will be urging my state representatives to vote against any bill that establishes a state-wide high school graduation test.

Sincerely,
Marcy Bergin

908 Tallmadge Dr.
West Chester, PA

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