

2696

RECEIVED

2008 JUN -4 PM 1:46

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Cheryl Rose  
7 Brinker Drive  
Doylestown, PA 10890

May 27, 2008

RECEIVED

MAY 30 2008

PA. STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

327

State Board of Education  
333 Market St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear board members:

As the parent of a school-age child and a taxpayer, I am writing to offer my strong **OBJECTION** for graduation competency assessments as a tool to ensure our high school graduates are adequately prepared for life after high school.

As you know, Pennsylvania invests billions of dollars annually into building and maintaining a world-class public education system. My tax dollars are among those invested, and I don't feel that any more money needs to be spent. My son is graduating top 10 in his class and going on to a highly accredited and specialized University and our young adults shouldn't be forced to "jump through anymore hoops" than they already do.

They are already put through PSSA testing in grades 9 and 11, forced to complete a 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade assessment as well as a graduation project in addition to their course load to graduate already. My son chose to carry a course load heavy with AP courses in addition to holding down a part time job, playing sports on 2 teams and working to obtain his private pilots license. Most of his friends do pretty much the same. Additional testing to allow them to graduate only puts more burden on them and the school districts.


If you are finding that certain school districts are sending young adults out into the world unable to read, write or do math then address your concerns with those that are flawed. Do not put additional burden on those young adults that are already working hard to achieve their goals. Perhaps the parents should also take more responsibility. I knew when my son was doing well and when he was having trouble in a subject because I took an active part in his education and encouraged learning at home.

I am also an educated person raised in the state of Pennsylvania. I hold a good job and a Bachelors degree which I worked hard to earn and was raised in a family that valued education. I realize that as a board you deal with people from all walks of life and not all care about or pay attention to their children's education but it is unfair to penalize and put additional burden on the school districts and families that do. I live in a school district with over 20,000 students in it and I don't see a problem here.

If this is a program you do eventually endorse then you need to eliminate the PSSA nonsense. If that isn't giving you the answers you need as far as to how well our kids are educated then why bother to disrupt their school days for 2 weeks every 2 years to administer them.

I absolutely object to any further efforts to make GCAs a reality.

Sincerely,

  
CHERYL ROSE