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Buckheit, James

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From: DIANE BASTY [dbasty50@verizon.net]**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2008 12:24 PM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us**Subject:** Graduation Competency Assessments

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear PA State Board:

I am contacting you to voice my **opposition to** the Graduation Competency Assessments. I am a full-time public school teacher with 28 years of experience.

1)Of gravest concern in schools today is the lack of funding to provide small class sizes & remediation programs to students in the early school years to reach full learning potential. This is in keeping with research-based best practices. In PA we have lost Classroom Plus, have increased class sizes, and a lack of remediation programs and services in the public schools. Adding testing in High School is not best practice.

2)Drop out rates and students placed in Special Education will increase as a result of additional testing in High School. The cost will be staggering.

3)We already have state-wide testing in place in PA, in addition to district-based standardized testing as well as curriculum assessment.

4)Will the state provide monies for remediation in order for graduating students to meet passing competency performance? Or, is the local school district going to have to foot the bill? If this is the case, education programs will suffer and it is a guarantee that test scores will continue to decrease.

5)I urge the board to consider programs and monies designed to target students identified early in school as needing services such as: smaller class size, additional staff, remediation classes and programs---that will bring up test scores and student performance. Research shows that early interventions through Grade 3 are the most effective.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Basty

Hampton Township School District

6/2/2008