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Buckheit, James**From:** Groff, Jeremy [jgroff@cdschools.org]

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Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 3:07 PM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Graduation Competency Exams

Mr. Buckheit,

I have three concerns about the proposed Graduation Competency Exams. Thank you for taking the time to listen to public feedback.

1) Standardized tests can be pricey. Who is going to pay for every child in the state to take all 10 of them?

2) 8th grade students in my school district already take all of the following standardized exams in a school year. 6th and 7th grade take the same minus PSSA Science and PSSA Writing. I'm concerned that an additional series of standardized testing would be too much (too much lost instruction time, too much emphasis on written assessments, too much high pressure testing, etc.)

- PSSA Math = 2 tests
- PSSA Reading = 2 tests
- PSSA Writing = 2 tests
- PSSA Science = 2 tests
- 4 sight = 2 tests, 3 times per year = 6 tests

3) A recent editorial in the Harrisburg newspaper proposed the idea that, due to the fast-paced growth of information and technology, we cannot possibly teach students all of the information they will need to know in a lifetime. Rather, we should be teaching students how to acquire information and use it (teach them critical thinking and research). These are not the sorts of skills that can easily be assessed on a written assessment.

Mr. Jeremy Groff*Vocal/General Music**Central Dauphin School District*

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