

Buckheit, James

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From: Ron Tyson [ty4rj@shentel.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2008 8:42 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Regard. Proposed legislation on Graduation

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Regarding the proposed GCA for graduation in PA.

A variety of measurements should be used to allow students to show what they know or do not know and not just standardized tests! To prevent students from graduating when they have consistently shown good grades and effort throughout their high school years seems cruel. To test in this manner only, falls short of all that we have learned about how to evaluate a student's potential.

Just as students do not learn from all of the same teaching methods used in a classroom, not all will show what they can do on ten subject oriented tests. When one enters a career/work world you are judged on many things. Your skills in that particular job, your integrity and credibility, your ability to work with others etc. You are also encouraged to stay up-to-date with your skill by attending workshops, going back to college for an advanced degree, or you are shown new techniques from a trainer or mentor. Students should be expected to understand what the career and work world demand. Maybe they should be tested on how to fill in a job application; write a resume; how to handle on the job problems and ethics issues; where to seek help; how to conduct themselves in a job interview as well as on the job etc.

Does this proposal suggest that a new course will be offered on "How to Pass the ten Graduation Competency Assessments? You may want to ponder that New York spends a complete semester on "How to Pass the Regents"! Isn't there something wrong with this picture? We consistently hear about the stress that students are under to pass them.

The real question is, does this prepare students for life or does it prepare them to pass the tests so they can graduate? Maybe an exit test would be better that can show if this student has been prepared to live in the world beyond the school as a human being.

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