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Buckheit, James

From: Kraske, Lauren [LKraske@Hatboro-Horsham.org]
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2008 2:36 PM
To: 00statbd@psupen.psu.edu
Subject: Graduation Testing

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To whom it may concern:

My name is Lauren Kraske and I am a freshman at the Pennsylvania State University in the Schreyer Honors College. I am very concerned about the current discussions regarding mandating testing for high school seniors. Although these tests may be optional, the fact is that most schools would comply in a poor effort to find another score to prove the capabilities of their students, which results in a disastrous effect on the education of our students. After being subjected to exams such as the PSSA's and the SAT's, I know that they do not accurately portray the abilities of our children, and only force teachers against their will to abandon necessary and poignant material to be replaced with useless, generalized content. The exams, most notably the PSSAs, are not only dreaded by students, but teachers as well, benefiting neither one of the most important groups of individuals involved with standardized testing. Adding another test, in addition to the SAT's, just adds stress, specifically for students in demanding programs that require a balance between studying for both exams and normal course work. The additional test would simply be frivolous and serve as another testament to the large disconnect between number-hungry officials and learning-deprived students. Please do not sentence our children to another round of superfluous bubble filling, while their minds and motivation to grow, thrive, and become active citizens go to waste. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kraske