

**Buckheit, James**

RECEIVED

**From:** Lori Dunkle [dunklel@bedford.k12.pa.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 9:04 AM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** High Stakes exit exam

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Buckheit,

I am very concerned about this proposed regulation that is being considered in Harrisburg concerning the high stakes exit exams. Not only am I an educator but I am also a parent. I am a parent of a highly intelligent child, who just happens to also have Asperger's Syndrome. Asperger's Syndrome is a form of Autism.

My child has achieved great things and has been very successful in school. However, the PSSA tests have been constant cause of frustration and anxiety for him over the years. I believe I can speak for other parents of children with disabilities that basing our child's diploma on the PSSA tests is unfair and discriminatory. My child struggles because he doesn't have the ability to understand figurative language, but yet the PSSA is full of it. So as I see it, my child gets punished for something that he can't control.

The "working world" is required to make adaptation and accommodations for its workers; however, no adaptations or accommodations are allowed during the PSSA tests. Also in today's society, many companies will not hire someone without at least a high school diploma. My question to the committee making this decision: "Are you willing to look a child, with a Superior IQ, straight A's in all subjects, and who has overcome so much adversity, in the eye and tell him he won't get a high school diploma because of his disability."

Einstein and Bill Gates both had Asperger's Syndrome like my son. My son may be the one to find a cure for a deadly disease but won't have the opportunity without a high school diploma. Please don't pass this proposal and discriminate against my child.

Thank you,  
Lori Dunkle  
Proud mother of Troy