

**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** elynnnet@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 31, 2008 9:36 AM  
**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** proposed graduation requirement

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

It has come to my attention that the Pennsylvania state government is considering requiring high school seniors to pass with proficiency a series of state exams in areas such as advanced algebra and chemistry. As a former special education teacher and current grade 3 teacher, as well as a parent of a successful "special needs" adult who would not have been able to pass such exams when she was in school, I don't understand the need for such requirements. If we had to have every high school graduate going on to college, then this would be a realistic, perhaps necessary, requirement. However, we do not want every high school graduate to go on to college. We need many of our graduates to go to trade schools, on-the-job training, or even home-making. Most of the post-high school experiences do not require advanced knowledge of algebra or chemistry. As a matter of fact, I did not need advanced algebra or chemistry knowledge to receive my bachelor's degree or my two master's degrees in education, and I am considered to be a highly qualified teacher! So, please reconsider this requirement. We do not want to mandate unnecessary stress on our educational system, channeling resources into needless tasks, and probably forcing many able-bodied students into dropping out and becoming a burden, rather than an asset, to society.

Respectfully,  
Lynne Thompson

6/2/2008