

**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** Cook, Terry [CooT@asd.k12.pa.us]

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**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 9:38 AM**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Exams for Diplomas

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am a seventh grade reading teacher, as well as the mom of a child with special needs. I vehemently object to the proposed exit exam for receiving a high school diploma. I know many students, including my own son, who comprehend very complex and high level concepts, however perform very poorly on tests due to inability to focus, dyslexia, or a number of other difficulties. These tests would NOT give an accurate measure of their knowledge of facts, ideas or concepts that they may know very well. If this measure goes through, my son will be in the first year of this test, before the bugs are worked out, and well before they figure out that what I have said is very true, and they scrap this idea. However, my son will suffer.

I am not only concerned with my own son, but with all of the other parents' sons and daughters who will be marked for life due to a faulty measure of intelligence or achievement. These children have worked very hard for their education. My son was not identified until recently, and due to his learning difficulties, we have worked many extra hours on homework, studying, and remedial work at home in the evenings as well as in the summer. As a reading specialist I have done various programs with him over and above the required curriculum. He has blossomed, and his IQ scores have shown a 20 point increase from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but he still does poorly on achievement tests.

Please consider my son, as well as others in his circumstance, when making this decision. I would be glad to help you in any way.

Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,

Mrs. Terry Cook  
Ford City Jr. Sr. High School