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Buckheit, James

**From:** Deardorff [infinity@innernet.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008 9:50 PM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Graduation Testing and other ideas

2008 JUN -4 PM 1: 39

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Jim:

I would like to commend your stance on Graduation Testing. I work in the school setting and also have children that are in public schools.

Common sense tells you that not all children are alike, first of all why do they have IEP's if they expect everyone to be PSSA proficient as the ultimate goal? (I will mention that neither of my children have an IEP, but I am very supportive of anyone who does).

It is not possible to reach the goal that has been set for 100% proficiency, this is like expecting all students to grow to 6 feet tall. Everyone does not grow to the same height and everyone does not learn at the same rate or achieve the same results on PSSA tests, that is impossible.

Do we want to test the students of Pennsylvania. I can tell you what the solution is with certainty!!! YES! YES! YES!

We want to test them to see where they are on their individual learning growth chart ...just like there is a growth chart for height their should be a learning chart and no one should be punished for meeting their potential, not the student nor the schools. Of course some years students do not grow very much but if they are in the 25th percentile how can we expect them to be in the 95th percentile if it is not possible in the first place. I would like to help design the concept for helping the students, schools and the state of Pennsylvania by creating a plan to test students to see if they are following their learning potential...we may have to put more funds into the gifted program which would be a tremendous asset to the future. The gifted are extremely overlooked - think of the advances for humanity. The average student should be taught accordingly and be happy with themselves as well.

Feel free to e-mail me with any questions...this is the first time I have written about something I feel so passionately about.

Thank you for taking a look at just one piece of the academic puzzle that doesn't fit!

Nadine Deardorff

5/29/2008