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**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 11:30 AM  
**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** GCAs

2008 JUN -4 PM 1: 50

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

As a recent transplant to the state of Pennsylvania from the state of New York, I now take this opportunity to support the proposal to require GCAs as a requirement for graduation. New York has used exit exams for a number of years. It does not increase the drop out rate with statistics showing a constant drop out rate as the Regents exams became required for a regents diploma in the 1990s again. Previously, schools were allowed to award a "local" diploma to students that could not pass the rigorous Regents exams.

Pennsylvania needs to require the PSSA or GCAs for a graduation requirement so that students and parents will support and value the education offered in Pennsylvania. Students scoring below basic on the PSSAs in younger grades need to be held back or required to attend summer school if Pennsylvania is to meet NCLB criteria by 2014. Time is of the essence to meet these goals. Harrisburg needs to set high expectations so that children will rise to meet them.

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