

**Buckheit, James**

RECEIVED

379

**From:** Valasek, Rosemary [rav@asd.k12.pa.us]

2008 JUN -4 PM 1: 50

**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 8:54 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** High stake exit exams

Good morning! I just received notice that the State Board of Education wants to begin High Stake Exit Exams for seniors. As a 30 year veteran of education (teacher/guidance counselor), I DO NOT support this endeavor. Please trust that our school districts are issuing diplomas based on local assessments and course work that needs to be completed before graduation. Students demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of ways. This testing has gotten out of control especially with the No Child Left Behind initiative. The testing is so specific that a child's creativity is ignored when displayed through portfolios, research papers, etc. Special Education students have accommodations and often are in classes to meet their ability. They may never see Algebra or Chemistry in their educational career. This is a huge concern when testing is demanded of special education students and members of the Board of Education are oblivious to their need. Finally, don't waste dollars on more standardized tests! This money could be better spent on many other programs needed.

Consider spending time in high schools and see what is going on before you create initiatives that are not needed. Thank you.

6/2/2008