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**Buckheit, James****From:** Bunnie Bryant [bunrab@hotmail.com]

2008 JUN -4 PM 1: 50

**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 10:58 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Graduation Tests

Please reconsider the current thinking on Graduation Competency Assessment.

As it stands, the planned test is punitive. Not every student can learn in the same way; tests of this nature automatically will eliminate certain segments--even some who have worked hard, to their full potential, for 12 years. Not all students should be tested in the same manner either. This has been a problem with the PSSA's for years. For 35 years, I taught gifted students as well as mentally challenged students. Had I treated them all the same, I would have not been the successful teacher I was, earning two Teacher of the Year Awards along the way. Your approach that treats every student the same will inevitably doom some students to failure, an act of discrimination at the least.

If the working world believes it wants or needs this, perhaps they can devise tests that will determine readiness and suitability at their work places prior to hiring. Ultimately, that might help students self-prepare not only for jobs they think they want, but also for jobs that would be appropriate for them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ruth Anne Bryant  
Retired PA Teacher

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