

Buckheit, James

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From: Bill Brenner [billbrenner55@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2008 8:37 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: "No" to Graduation Competency Exams

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Sir:

You have requested feedback on the proposed Graduation Competency Exams. These 10 exams would be administered during a student's Senior year, and the student would have to pass six of the ten to graduate. This would be in addition to the PSSA tests (writing, reading, math, science and social studies, which are to be added in the next couple years) and the PSAT, SAT and SAT II tests that students take in their Junior year.

I do not favor any additional tests being administered. Far too much time currently is being spent "teaching to the test." Let's concentrate on teaching the subject matter instead. And let's find ways for Pennsylvania to return to contributing closer to 50% of the costs of public education, rather than devising ever more ways to spend our state tax monies on testing students!

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