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**From:** Jim Sankey [jsankey@mercerc.k12.pa.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2008 12:41 PM  
**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** graduation competency assessments  
**Importance:** High

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

To the Executive Director of the State Board of Education:

As a now-retired teacher in Pennsylvania public schools for 38 years, I want to go on record as strongly opposing the latest from the state board of education: graduation competency assessments.

In addition to being another way to remove local control over local schools, which know their students best, this misguided idea is yet another attempt to mold every student into the same form. Students come with all kinds of strengths and weaknesses, and this proposal is just another way we are setting up our educational system to fail.

We may not want to leave any child behind, but graduation competency assessment is one idea that *should* be left behind.

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