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Buckheit, James**From:** LeeAnn Negley [negley@freeport.k12.pa.us]

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Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2008 11:24 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Diplomas

Good Morning:

I believe that not giving a student a diploma for not passing a specific number of the new standardize test is extremely inappropriate. The students who are identified as learning disabled would be discriminated for their disability. Not all people are "test takers" and many students have strong abilities in other areas of their education.

To base a diploma on standardized testing that may or may not be on someone reading level is a poor assessment. We already give the PSSA to students with a specific learning disability in math and reading that is not on their reading level and they are to be proficient, well if you are identified with a reading disability and read on a 3rd grade level, how are you going to be proficient on a 5 grade PSSA??? We need to realize that we all do not have equal abilities and therefore should not be expected to all be proficient or pass specific sections of testing to get a diploma, soon teachers will be teaching that test!! Long gone will be the days of students getting a chance to excel in art, music, or Vo-Tech!

Sincerely,
LeeAnn Negley
Learning Support Teacher
South Buffalo Elementary

6/3/2008