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From: SellersLia@aol.com
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To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: Graduation exams

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I received this e-mail address to comment on the proposed graduation exam. Your consideration is appreciated.

1. In general, a graduation exam is an excellent idea and simply follows procedures which have been in place in other industrialized countries for years. Graduating students who are not proficient in some of the basic requirements devalues the high school diploma and makes a mockery of the educational system.
2. However, in order to reduce the proportion of students who get to the 12th grade only to fail, **the results of all the previous tests taken in elementary, middle, and high school must be used for more than cumulative score reporting.** These tests must be used as tools to help individual students whose scores are declining AND to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum / teachers. Programs to ascertain subject score trends in a particular school or district can easily be developed and **MUST** be used to evaluate curriculum / teacher effectiveness.

Thank you!

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