

Buckheit, James

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From: Mandy Learson [MLearson@gvgsd.org]**Sent:** Monday, June 02, 2008 2:44 PM

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To: 'jbuckheit@state.pa.us'**Subject:** competency examsINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am a parent and a teacher who is strongly opposed to the proposed competency exams required to earn a high school diploma. I have seen Massachusetts implement such exam requirements only to deny a high school diploma to a special needs student who failed her math test by two points. She fulfilled all other curricular and academic requirements, but cannot have her diploma due to this one requirement.

If this measure passes, more students will drop out of school; the exact opposite of the intended purpose.

Research shows that adults are successful who learn how to utilize their strengths and compensate for their weaknesses. Success depends more on emotional intelligence – being able to work in a team – than on IQ and test scores. Why discourage our young people with an onerous one-size-fits-all type of assessment?

Thank you for considering my views,
Lynn D. Learson

6/2/2008