

Buckheit, James

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From: Nancy Tolfa [n85tolfa@connecttime.net]

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Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 3:48 PM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Graduation Competency Assessment

WE are OPPOSED to the graduation Competency Assessment for the following reasons:

Many school districts like ours already require final exams in these subjects which are based on the local school district's curriculum. Basing a student's receipt of a high school diploma exclusively on the results of a final examination makes that final exam a high stakes test and can force districts to teach to the test rather than a comprehensive and relevant curriculum. **By the state demanding a proficiency grade on the final exam to qualify for a high school diploma, more time will be spent with students on learning test taking strategies than experiencing high order thinking skills.**

The state will be spending \$48 million to implement this Graduation Competency Assessment program. We feel that this money is better spent in ensuring that local schools have the resources needed to provide all students with a real opportunity to learn and achieve state academic standards.

Sincerely,
Nancy L Tolfa
J Todd Aukerman