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From: Barb Levitt [levitt@southfayette.org]

2008 JUN -9 PM 2: 58

Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 9:11 AM

To: j buckheit@state.pa.us

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

As a special education teacher, I just want to voice my opinion on the Graduation Competency Testing. I have been teaching for 27 years and the cruelest thing that I have done to my students is to put them through the PSSA Tests. These are students who are functioning below their grade levels but are expected to take a test that is on their grade level that they are unable to do. My understanding, is that an IEP is a legal document. If that is the case, then why are they being made to take a test on a grade level that they are not functioning on. If you could see the frustration and break downs that they have over these tests, you would understand how I feel. They already have low self esteems because they know that they can not do what their fellow classmates can. Why put them through more frustration and humiliation. To me, these tests prove nothing about what these students can and can not do. Now we are going to be expected to give them another test which will only make them feel worse than they already do.

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6/5/2008