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Buckheit, James**From:** Deanna Moximchalk [deemox@msn.com]

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Sent: Sunday, June 08, 2008 1:24 PM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** GCA's

Hello Mr. Buckheit,

I am a first grade teacher in the Mt. Pleasant School District and I am writing to voice my disappointment in the on-going process of approving the new graduation exams. I have just completed my 20th year in public education and I will be the first to admit that our educational system needs to continue to hold all those involved accountable for the work we do. I work with extremely dedicated educators and can honestly say that very few public school teachers fear accountability for ourselves or our students. I just am dismayed that our state government believes yet ANOTHER set of tests will be the solution to the shortcomings in our public schools. I have seen many of my former students who are largely from poverty families, complete their education and become very happy successful adults in spite of the fact that they didn't complete higher level math and science courses. Any teacher will encourage each student to take advantage of every opportunity in their educational process but that process must be geared toward the needs of each student. We graduate many students who go on to prestigious universities who completed an extremely rigorous curriculum. That doesn't mean that those who chose a vocational technical route or a less academic course of action aren't living very productive lives. Thank God that not all of our students do insist on going onto what society considers "academic careers" because we would be without highly skilled workers in many job areas. Some of my former students are highly successful electricians, plumbers, contractor, etc. They completed very specific math and science training to be qualified to do their jobs but they may not be able to pass an Algebra II exam. Does that mean that they are not deserving of a diploma?

I could continue on with many examples of the negative consequences that these exams will bring on our students but I want to keep this brief as I know you are receiving many opinions. Please encourage our state government to take the millions of dollars that will be in my opinion wasted on just another set of tests and focus on educating not testing our children.

Please hold our local school boards accountable for the spending of educational funds. I live in a district where we just spent \$750,000 to put turf on our football field yet we can't even discuss funding full-day kindergarten. We need to use discretion when considering spending and hold everyone accountable at the same time. Don't continue to punish the students and spend money testing instead of educating.

Thank you for your time,
Deanna Moximchalk

6/9/2008