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June 11, 2008

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Jim Buckheit, Executive Director  
State Board of Education  
PA Department of Education  
333 Market Street 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126 0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

As a former public school teacher and administrator, for over 30 years here in Pennsylvania, and National Manager for Education Research, Training and Marketing for IBM, ISM Global Systems, I strongly believe that our youth would benefit from the proposed Graduation Requirements Initiative. I designed the national K-12 career development curriculum for Careerware, an IBM company, to help teachers understand how academics and workplace skills sets needed to be integrated to help students succeed in their future employment opportunities.

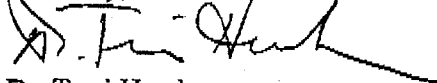
There is a true need for employers to have skilled employees who have mastery in the core subjects when they are first hired. The PSSA's are definitely a step in that direction...but they are not enough. There should be academic benchmarks along the way that are indicators of success and failure...there is a need for consistency in the quality of curriculum delivery from district to district...there needs to be the opportunity for students to test out of content modules so they can advance their education...or be provided with targeted remediation only when it is needed...

The proposed Graduation Requirements would benefit the students, their parents, employers and our overall economic development...

I realize that educators, students and parents feel burdened by the PSSA testing schedule...however...if we provided benchmarks along the way...this process may actually lighten the burden at the high school level...and ensure proficient academic skill levels of our youth...

You may contact me for any additional comments...

Sincerely,



Dr. Terri Henderson

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Pittsburgh PA 15241