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**Buckheit, James****From:** Joanne Hinton [majjah@verizon.net]

2008 JUN 16 PM 4:21

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2008 2:53 PM**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** State high school competency exams

I have a college sophomore, high school junior, and fifth grader. It is frightening to me how many school days per year are devoted to testing. The only greater concern I have is how much our academic curricula is being adapted in order to do well in testing. Our first graders are given practice in circling the correct answer on their homework, so they get used to the standardized test format. Our fifth, eighth and eleventh graders are being tested for weeks at a time. Testing doesn't teach students how to think outside the box - frankly, I fear it does just the opposite. And creative thinking, the creative process, is being put on a back burner. Please don't mandate yet another test for these students.

Thank you.

Joanne Hinton  
Parent