

# 2696

RECEIVED

**From:** Help  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2008 9:24 AM  
**To:** Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Gelnett, Wanda B.  
**Cc:** Harris, Mary Lou; Kaufman, Kim  
**Subject:** FW: IRRC Website - New Message

2008 JUN 17 AM 9:46

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Comment letter from WebHelp inbox.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Independent Regulatory Review Commission [mailto:[No-Reply@irrc.state.pa.us](mailto:No-Reply@irrc.state.pa.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2008 9:08 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

**IRRC****Independent Regulatory Review Commission**

A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Tom

**Last Name:** Zimmerman

**Company:** Williamsport Area School District Board of School Directors

**Email:** [tzimmerm@pct.edu](mailto:tzimmerm@pct.edu)

**Subject:** Commentary - Proposed Graduation Competency Assessments

**Message:**

I am writing to relay my disagreement regarding the Proposed GCA proocess. The State Board of Education invested a great deal of time, money and effort demonstrating the reliability and validity of the PSSAs. GCAs, costly to develop, will be either an additional or a replacement paper and pencil evaluation. Currently, School districts are permitted to administer alternative assessments suited for those students who do not perform adequately on the PSSAs. To the best of my knowledge, neither the State Board nor the Department of Education has ever assessed the adequacy of any District's alternative assessments, which are required to conform to the State Standards established and adopted during the past decade. I do not oppose requiring PA's public school students to meet high standards in order to graduate, but I am opposed to a limited set of assessments and assessment methodologies in the form of a one-size-fits-all prescription. Thank you for your consideration. Thomas A. Zimmerman School Director Williamsport Area School District

6/17/2008