

2696

Buckheit, James

RECEIVED

798

From: Andrew Atkinson [andrewtatkinson@hotmail.com]**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2008 12:59 PM

2008 JUN 23 AM 10: 07

To: j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

As a social studies teacher and a local elected official, I believe that a core function of our public schools is to prepare responsible, engaged citizens. Yet every year, thousands of high school students graduate without demonstrating competencies in subjects like world history and civics. How can we expect these students to understand how economic indicators half a world away impact their household budget? How will a young person make their voice heard on an issue if they can't differentiate between federal, state, and local policymakers?

I want our future voters and leaders to respect diversity, think critically about complex issues, and to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens. The State Board of Education's proposal makes progress toward this goal by establishing high, state-level standards and measures in American history, world history, and civics and government. These are long overdue.

I urge the State Board to adopt proposed changes to Chapter 4 and ensure that more students graduate with the ability to think globally and act locally.

Andrew Atkinson
Teacher, Avon Grove High School;
Member, Oxford, PA borough council

Now you can invite friends from Facebook and other groups to join you on Windows Live™ Messenger. Add them now!

6/16/2008