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Buckheit, James

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From: Deb Sanzi [deb@sanzi.com]**Sent:** Sunday, June 15, 2008 9:41 PM 2008 JUN 23 AM 10: 29**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.us**Subject:** graduation competency examsINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am *strongly opposed* to the proposed high school graduation competency assessments for many reasons, several of which are listed below.

First, all students are not good test takers. Some are good at public speaking, others are good artists, others are good at hands on work. There are many ways to succeed in school and in life. Those who struggle with exams should not be judged solely on their success in taking them. There are many other ways to assess a students learning besides yet another exam.

In addition, the PSSA is already given as a means to evaluate curriculum along the course of the students' educational career and to be certain that it is meeting state standards. The PSSA is and should be only one tool used to assess the proficiency of a student. This proposed exam given at graduation is far too late to correct a missed opportunity with a student and with the district curriculum.

Also, teachers and the school districts will want the students to do well on the test, therefore they will teach "to" the test. This will only affect our currently vigorous and broad based curriculum in a negative way, narrowing the course offerings at the local level in order to align with State standards in each GCA content area.

Lastly, the financial impact to the taxpayers is astronomical, especially with no proof that this will be successful. I feel that the money would be better spent in ensuring that our local schools have the resources needed to provide all students with a real opportunity to learn and achieve state academic standards.

Thank you,
Debra C. Sanzi,

6/17/2008