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Buckheit, James**From:** Williams, C. Port [PWilliams@hasd.tu.k12.pa.us]**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2008 9:36 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us**Subject:** Graduation Competency Assessments

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments. As an educational leader for school improvement, I believe the GCA's offer an improvement over the present Grade 11 PSSA. I believe the results of the GCA's can provide the 'missing data' in the high school improvement process. As a Project 720 high School, we were not able to effectively evaluate the impact of our improvement efforts due to the lack of a consistent and continuous database to draw conclusions. Under the present assessment system (DIBELS and PSSA), the available K-8 data provides a continuous stream of student assessment data that permits the ongoing monitoring of student achievement. The data gap that exists between grades 8 and 11 has prevented us from the identification of the 'root causes' of the high school's sluggish improvement.

I believe the GCA's would strengthen the high school improvement process, and because many GCA's could be administered in earlier grades, we would have the opportunity to provide interventions for struggling students.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Dr. C. Port Williams, Assistant Superintendent
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