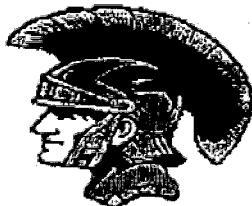


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GREATER JOHNSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal/Director of
Vocational Education
DANIEL RESENIC

Assistant Principal
DON CIVIS

Assistant Principal
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Pride, Tradition and Excellence

March 20, 2008

Dr. Gerald L. Zahorchak
Secretary of Education
PA Department of Education
Harrisburg, PA

Dear Dr. Zahorchak,

As a Pennsylvania educator with over 30 years experience the disappointing comments from business leaders and post-secondary educational professionals have become all too familiar. Time and time again I have heard that our high school graduates do not possess the academic skills in Mathematics, English, and Science required for a smooth and successful transition into post-secondary education or skilled employment. Remedial classes taught on college campuses for no college credit are commonplace. Earning a college degree in four years is slowly but surely becoming a rarity with five years becoming more the norm.

What can we as public school educators do? In developing and approving the Graduation Competency Assessments I believe the PA Department of Education and the PA State Board of Education have taken the much needed appropriate action to ensure that Pennsylvania's high school graduates possess the academic skills to achieve success at the post-secondary and skilled employment levels. A tremendous amount of time, effort and money have been put into curriculum and instruction. However, these elements of education are meaningless without an effective method to assess student mastery of the academic concepts. The GCAs are the much needed piece of the educational puzzle that will make educational equality across the Commonwealth a reality. The 501 separate school districts across the state of Pennsylvania are in dire need of a system that gives true value and meaning to a Pennsylvania High School Diploma. I fully support the GCAs as a key component in Pennsylvania's plan to ensure that our high school graduates are adequately prepared to achieve success in the global academic and economic world they are about to enter.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Resenic'.

Daniel Resenic
Principal GJHS

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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