

Buckheit, James

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From: Whitmer Jeffrey [jwhitmer@avongrove.org]  
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2008 9:47 AM  
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us  
Subject: GCAs

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments. The thousands or even millions of dollars that will be used for this misguided initiative could be far better spent to help

students: parental involvement programs, smaller class sizes in the younger grades, tutoring and summer school programs, etc.. Please do not waste any money on more standardized testing when we already have the PSSAs.

\* What is going to happen to the students who drop out because they feel sure they won't graduate if they have to score Proficient on these standardized exams, or who just haven't scored proficient on all of them by the end of their senior year? Will they be out on the street? Will they be prevented from going on to college without a high school diploma even if they can pass the college entrance exams? Will they be unable to get a decent job without a high school diploma, even though they have proven over 12 years of education that they reliably came to school every day, reliably did their homework, reliably worked as a team where appropriate, reliably researched and wrote in clear, understandable language? Aside from the disastrous personal cost to the student, what are the costs to the community in coping with these struggling young people?

We need REAL reform--not more testing !!! "No Child Left Untested" is becoming the not-so-funny joke with educators.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Whitmer

Teacher