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June 14, 2008

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RECEIVED
2008 JUN 23 AM 10:17
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

RE: High School Graduation Exam Requirements

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

We wish to offer our comments regarding the high school graduation examination requirements proposed by the Pennsylvania State Department of Education. We are strongly opposed to any such requirements for the following reasons:

1. A single comprehensive exam cannot determine whether or not a student has been "properly" educated.
2. All schools will be focused on preparing students to pass a particular exam rather than providing a well-rounded education.
3. If such a comprehensive exam is required, would a younger bright student be permitted to pass the test and graduate prior to completing the twelfth grade? If not, why not? If the successful completion of a comprehensive examination is the proposed sole determination of an educated person, why inhibit a student from studying for the test and passing it earlier?
4. Such tests do not and cannot sufficiently accommodate all learning styles and abilities. Many fine students find test taking difficult and an unfair measure of their knowledge and abilities.
5. If a school district has been so irresponsible to continue to matriculate uneducated and unprepared students, will this proposed exam sufficiently punish the school district for not performing its duty, or will the penalty rest on the individual student who has been passed by that school district to the next grade each year under the assumption that his or her educational achievements were sufficient?

Sincerely,

K.C. and Martina McCleary