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Buckheit, James

From: Karen Brendle [KarenB@cciu.org]

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Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 8:38 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** PA High School Diploma proposal changes

As a proud parent of a Phi Beta Kappa recipient I applaud the desire to increase high school graduation standards. As an instructor of many students with I.E.P.'s, however, I have a concern. If the proposal passes perhaps these students will be at a disadvantage. It seems to me to be practical to create two kinds of high school graduation diplomas. The students who are proficient in the new standardized tests which include Algebra II and Chemistry could be awarded a PA "Honors" (or as some states call it "Regents") diploma. All other high school students who pass the PSSA or other "basic skills" test could be awarded a PA high school diploma. Thus an important distinction could be made.

Without such an adaptation I have concerns for the future of the students who may be unable to pass the new standardized tests proposed. They may find it more difficult to get any kind of work without a high school diploma, resulting in an increased dependency on "society".

Again, I am not opposed to strengthening standards for graduation. I would like to see some distinction in requirements be made.

Sincerely,

Karen T. Brendle

6/17/2008