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**Buckheit, James**

**From:** Sandra Rhyneer [sprhyneer@yahoo.com] 2008 JUN 23 AM 10:14  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 14, 2008 4:20 PM  
**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** Oppose GCAs

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

We oppose new regulations proposed by the PA Board of Education that would prevent students from receiving high school diplomas unless the "proficient" grade on 6 of 10 is earned on new standardized state tests. It is our understanding that students with an IEP would be required to take the test, but be exempt from earning a "proficient" grade in order to graduate. Students in special education would be harmed because school resources would likely be diverted to the task of getting general education students prepared to score "proficient" on the standardized tests. It also seems as though this new regulation would likely cause students who wouldn't otherwise be eligible for special education to attempt getting into special education as a way to avoid the need to score "proficient" to graduate. With the increased number of new special education students, time and resources focused on students who truly need special education services would be diverted or spread thin.

We ask you to reconsider adopting this standardized test as it would be detrimental to students who truly need and benefit from special education services.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

Sandra & Tom Rhyneer, parents to a son with Down syndrome