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From: Nikki Blagden [nblagden@gmail.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 6:52 PM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhowades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; cruble@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com**Subject:** opposition to GCA's

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit, and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs.

- Our local school district is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace.
- Unlike a school district's own local proficiency assessment, GCAs do not offer the flexibility to meet the needs of students who have different learning styles and do not permit assessment of students in nontraditional ways.
- The addition of the GCS battery reduces the number of instructional days and would impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes testing on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests.
- The introduction of GCAs would result in a state-controlled curriculum that reduces a local school district's ability to provide a curriculum based on community needs and desires.
- Students who have received offers of acceptance from colleges may not have the opportunity to attend if they fail to pass a test.
- The current proposal could have significant economic impact on school districts operating under Act 1 fiscal restraints and the required expenditures have no proof of effectiveness.

I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners.

I am opposed because we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams.

I am opposed to double testing of our students.

I am opposed because students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment.

I am opposed because GCAs do not test our students on relevant 21st century skills, and valuable class time will have to be diverted to prepare students to take these additional tests.

Most sincerely,

Nicole Blagden
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

5/21/2008