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From: RTMurphy [rtmurphy@comcast.net]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 6:34 PM**To:** andydinniman@pasenate.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; cruble@pahousegop.com; dmilne@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; jstairs@pahousegop.com; musto@pasenate.com; jrhoades@pasen.gov; IRR; jbuckheit@state.pa.us**Subject:** Opposed to GCA Testing

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am a parent of 2 children in the Tredyffrin-Eastown School district and I am OPPOSED to the new GCA Testing because:

- 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.

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