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From: Merraine [Merraine@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 4:31 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us
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Subject: GCAs

State Board of Education
333 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17126

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs.

Our school district already tests our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams. The double testing of our students is unnecessary and a waste of time and resources. Furthermore, the 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 adding yet another series of tests (the GCAs) will waste even more valuable instruction time when teachers must divert class time to prepare students to take these additional tests. Teachers already spend too much time preparing students to take the PSSAs when they could be teaching more of the curriculum.

Please help us give the classroom back to the teachers. Good school districts (those whose students continually score proficient on existing tests) should be able to determine their students' eligibility for graduation without state-mandated testing.

Most sincerely,

Merraine B. Rein
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

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