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From: Mindek, Renee [MindekR@TESD.NET]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 10:22 AM
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Subject: GCAs

RECEIVED
2008 MAY 22 AM 10:29
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Representatives, Senators, Educators and Officials,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs.

I am opposed because 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 the diverse community needs and desires.

I am opposed because 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.

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.

As a teacher, I am saddened and offended that legislature such as this has made it this far through the system. Teachers choose to teach because of a love of their students and their subject. Students thrive on this love. When that is replaced with yet another form of standardized testing, what will really be the difference between individualized instruction and students memorizing information for a test?

Most sincerely,

Renée Mindek
Tredyffrin/Easttown Teacher

5/22/2008