
From: Stacy Stone [svs@drexel.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 7:19 PM
To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; crubley@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com
Subject: GCAs

Dear Mr. Buckheit and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs. I oppose GCAs because they will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners. As a learning support teacher, I already see the sometimes devastating effects of standardized testing on my students' self-esteem; with the addition of GCAs, we run the risk of robbing these students of their futures as well. One of my former students, who has straight As in her classes and is lauded by teachers for her work ethic likely would not be graduating and going on to an excellent four-year college this fall if the GCAs were already in place.

The addition of the GCA battery also 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 therefore urge you to abandon this plan in favor of continuing with local control of graduation requirements. School districts like ours already do an excellent job of preparing out students for both college and careers.

Most sincerely,

Stacy Stone

Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

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