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Buckheit, James

**From:** Rountree Family [routreefamily@comcast.net] 2008 MAY 27 AM 10: 47  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2008 8:59 AM  
**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.us; irrc@irrc.state.pa.us; jrhoward@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com;  
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**Subject:** GCA

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

I have been a Pennsylvania State Resident all of my life. I currently have three children enrolled in the elementary public school system. I am opposed to the GCAs. I believe that there are already enough standardized testing in the schools. Eleventh graders already need to pass PSSAs, they do not need another test. It has been my experience that teachers abandon creative curriculum in place of having the students study for a standardized test. I am angry that we are forcing bright, creative children to conform to what the state thinks they should be learning. Teaching to standardized tests does a disservice to our students. Teachers are no longer encouraged to maximize a students potential by introducing new, vibrant, up to date material. Instead, they are left to teach state mandated minimum requirements on antiquated material. Eleventh grade is already a stressful year for students. Adding more testing along with the PSSAs and college entrance examinations and a burdensome regular workload is too much for our children.

Our local school district has an excellent record of preparing children for success in college and the workplace. Instituting wide-sweeping similar exams on the entire state, on every student, makes no sense. The local school districts are better able to consider the individual needs of its students and the community it serves.

Please stand in opposition to the Graduation Competency Assessments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrea Rountree

5/23/2008