

From: Audrey Ho [audreycho@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 9:27 AM
To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com;
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Subject: I oppose the GCA

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
Graduation Competency Assessment Tests, the GCAs.

I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a
format that meets the needs of diverse learners.
Each student learns things differently. Some may be
better visual learners, while others are more
auditory. Some are better test takers, but cannot
retain what they learned. While others may score low
on tests, but are able to solve problems uniquely.

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
think this creates undue stress and limits the
curriculum further to gear for these tests. Students
need more opportunities for creative thinking and
applying what they know in order to survive in the
real world. High test scores don't necessarily mean a
student will succeed. Low test scores don't mean a
student will fail.

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. It is also a waste of
money and valuable manpower. Why not concentrate
those precious resources on better pay for great
teachers, better facilities, new programs of learning
or enrichment, and even guaranteeing every school has
the basic supplies it needs to function. Our
elementary school, Beaumont Elementary School, donates
school supplies and raises money for our sister
school, Bell Ave., every year. How would they be if
we didn't do this?

Most sincerely,

Audrey Ho

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REVIEW COMMISSION

Tredyffrin/Easttown resident