
From: Jana Walker [janarwalker@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 10:16 AM
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: Graduation Competency Assessments
Importance: High

I have attached a letter regarding the recent Graduation Competency Assessment.

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition of the proposed Graduation Competency Assessment testing.

We recently moved to Pennsylvania from Tulsa, Oklahoma and have great concern over the recent testing issue. I think it is ridiculous to add another test which can determine a student's graduation or non-graduation based upon this test. I think to begin with kids have too many standardized tests, and adding another one is insane. I am opposed for numerous reasons which follow:

(1) I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners.

(2) I am opposed because we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams.

(3) I am opposed to double testing of our students.

(4) 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.

(5) 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.

Most sincerely,

Todd and Jana Walker
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident