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Buckheit, James

From: J Evangelista [evangelista1187@verizon.net] 2008 MAY 27 AM 10:46
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 7:52 AM
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Subject: Good morning

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 GCAs. There are a host of reasons listed below in accordance with the opinions of the experts in my community; the teachers and Board that deal with students every day. I would like to add the following. Over the past 14 years, I have been fortunate enough to live in Virginia, Massachusetts, Northern New Jersey and the United Kingdom. I have learned the way some other States and Countries manage educational systems.

As the mother of four young children (ages 12 to 2) with varying levels of aptitude, I ask you to focus on educating the whole child, not just testing the child. Rather than funding additional tests, fund trips to museums, parks, and experiences. The memories and confidence given to

children will carry them through their entire lives. Allow the teacher to teach the children the wonders of this fascinating world, not teach to the tests. Encourage the children to be generous in spirit and charitable in life. What children remember on a field trip to Harrisburg's State Building may create a spirit of your successors. It is time to drag this beautiful and diverse State into the 21st century.

I thank you for your time and consideration. Below are other reasons of great importance for which I strongly oppose the GCAs.

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 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.

With Kind Regards,
Judith Evangelista

Current resident in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District