

From: kmakarp@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2008 11:16 AM
To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com;
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Subject: Oppose 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 GCAs.
The State of PA Already Extensively Tests the students in 3rd 5th 8th
and 11th grade through PSSA exams, so if you have not figured out who
is not ready to graduate SHAME ON THE SCHOOL for PASSING THEM ALONG!!

I also oppose the GCA because it does not provide an appropriate format
for the needs of the diverse learners.

I am opposed to double testing of our students. 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. Which wastes so much class time
already, and is placed at such a difficult time frame for 11th graders
who are in AP classes (Should be exempt!!).

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.

PA State Board should allocate the money that would have to be spent to
administrate these tests and develop them to give back to schools to
help with learning support and testing of children that might have
learning differences and actually help these children, and then you
would have more children successful, less drop outs..

Testing, and teaching to the test is not the answer.. low teacher to
student ratios.. Good testing for learning differences, hearing loss,
vision testing, and Encouraging Honors support is what works...NOT A
TEST the last YEAR of their education... That is like closing the barn
door after the horses have escaped!

Most sincerely,

Karen Karp , BSN

A resident of Tredyffrin-Easttown School District

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REVIEW COMMISSION