

Buckheit, James

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From: Jean Twardzik [jtwardzik@pgasd.com]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2008 7:30 AM
To: jlbuckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: GCA

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

Please do not institute the GCA. We, teachers are supposed to be teaching using research based strategies that have been proven to work with any students and yet the research says that high stakes testing is not a true measure of a child's intelligence. It makes me wonder about the real purpose of the testing. Why aren't we concerned with how a child will function in the world after graduation? In the past, before PSSA, students chose a career path and took classes that would benefit them once they got out of High School. They were able to plug right into a job. Now we teach what they will be tested on and they don't get what they need to succeed. Many students that I work with will not be using Algebra I, II, parts of Geometry, yet alone Trigonometry. But they can be successful in their Vo-tech classes. Isn't this what education is supposed to be about? Maybe I've been doing this too long- but I don't see teaching for a test as helping anyone.

Thank you for your time.

Jean Twardzik
Learning Support Teacher
Pine Grove Area High School

6/2/2008