

**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** Beth Scanlon [bscanlon@pasdedu.org]

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2008 8:09 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am writing to you in regards to the possible legislation regarding GCAs. As an Elementary Guidance Counselor I see children on a daily basis and one thing is for certain. All children are unique individuals with diverse strengths and weaknesses. It is absurd that one will be required to show excellency in 10 key areas in order to pass and receive a High School Diploma. We have career standards and are encouraged to introduce students to goal setting and to formulate plans for possible careers they find desirable. However, if a student excels in math and wishes to pursue a career that emphasizes math skills but they fail or do poorly on English GCAs are we setting up a student for failure and possibly inhibiting their strengths by penalizing them for being poor in one academic area and excellent in another? In addition, what about the students who exhibit test anxiety or just do poorly on tests yet they excel in completion of homework or reverse that and what about the student who doesn't need the homework repetition but aces any test you put in front of them? We are told to leave NO child behind but in essence you are segregating and dictating how a child must learn and perform according to the state's standard not what the children's standards are. This legislation must be looked at much more thoroughly and the question of who really benefits from this needs to be addressed.