

**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** Kim Foxhall [kafoxhall@zoominternet.net]**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2008 8:27 AM

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**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.us**Subject:** Stronly Oppose GCAsINDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit,

This email is to inform you of my strong opposition to the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments that are being considered by the state of Pennsylvania. I am a resident of Allegheny County in Western PA, and have a child in the Pine-Richland school district here. The two main reasons that I oppose these assessments are as follows:

1. It is my belief that these tests will take away control of curriculum on a local level, which would be a great disservice to our children. Our local leaders have the best input on how to shape and form our curriculum because they know our children, while the state does not know our children or how to teach best to their needs. The GCAs would simply be one more test the students are required to take, and would lead to teaching to the test, rather than to their learning basic, core skills. Teaching to the test is definitely NOT the answer!
2. The GCAs also do not take into account the variety of learning styles of the students. Not all students learn and process information in the same ways and do not test in the same ways. Students who do not test well will not be best served by assessments such as these. An additional test at the time of graduation is far too late to correct missed opportunities for students to gain proficiency in core subjects. Again, the needs of each student are best met by our local administrators and teachers, not by the state and yet another test.

My hope is that you will take into consideration all opinions of concerned parents and weigh all information very carefully, but more importantly, that you will consider the needs of the students above all else. Your time and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kim Foxhall