

2696

**From:** Laura Backe [lbacke@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 09, 2008 9:33 AM  
**To:** jbackheit@state.pa.us; IIRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com;  
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crubley@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andyginniman@pasenate.com  
**Subject:** <no subject>

Dear Mr. Buckheit, and State Board of Education Members,

We are writing to express our opposition to the GCAs.

- We are opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners.
- We are opposed because we already test our students throughout the year in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams.
- We are opposed to the double testing of our students. Students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment.
- Most importantly, valuable class time will have to be diverted to prepare students to take these additional tests. TEACHERS ARE ALREADY REQUIRED TO TEACH TO THE STANDARDIZED TESTS INSTEAD OF THE NEEDS OF A CLASS.

Please stop all of this unnecessary standardized testing; our children are burning out! We moved to this area because of the strong school system. We do not not now want to move away because of its decline.

Most sincerely,

John and Laura Backe

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