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From: mburgerpto@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2008 12:55 PM
To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; crubley@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com
Subject: I oppose the GCAs

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.

I have outlined the numerous reasons why I am opposed:

- 1)I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners.
- 2)I am opposed because we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams.
- 3)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.
- 4)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.
- 5)Lastly, the money that would be spent on designing, administering, and evaluating the GCAs would be better spent on smaller classroom sizes, early identification and intervention of learning differences, and providing all PA students with the tools they need to be more successful in the classroom.

Most sincerely,
Michele Burger
PTO President
Valley Forge Elementary School
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

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