

**2696**

**From:** Alan Holtzer [aholtzer@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2008 8:31 AM  
**To:** jbuckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; cruble@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com  
**Subject:** gca testing

I am writing to express my **OPPOSITION** of the Pennsylvania Graduation Competency Assessments (GCAs). I am a Psychiatrist with a subspecialty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. I am also a mother of two young children.

I **OPPOSE** the GCAs for many reasons, including:

- 1)I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners. I believe this will set these students up for failure.
- 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 Pennsylvania students with the tools they need to be more successful in the classroom.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nora Margolis  
Valley Forge Elementary School  
Tredyffrin/Easttown Pennsylvania

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