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From: Martin, Carolyn [CMARTIN@wcasd.k12.pa.us]
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2008 10:43 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: Opposed to GCAs

State Board of Education
 333 Market St.
 Harrisburg, PA 17126

RECEIVED
 JUN 13 AM 10:58
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

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

I am writing to express my **opposition** to the GCAs. Over the years, many students have proven to be high achievers, but poor test takers. My daughter for instance gets mostly A's and one or two B's on her report card (she has gotten A's in math at times), but consistently scores on the lower end of proficient on the math portion of the PSSA's and has needed to take Math Seminar every year to improve her ability "to take tests." Being a poor test taker may impact choices of colleges for many students; however, these students do get accepted into many fine colleges and go on to successful careers in various vocations.

If a student does well all throughout their public school academic years and then does not pass the GCA, it would be unfair to withhold graduation for them. Not only is it unfair, it could be an assault on many students' self-esteem. This could, in turn, cause some students to question their ability to pursue further education. What a shame that would be! We have already stressed our children to the maximum with increased standardized testing and hours of daily homework. Do we really need to add this additional stress onto them for them to fret over their entire high school experience?!

In addition, the GCA's will not meet the needs of diverse learners. High ability students would not be challenged to develop effective learning strategies, and while making meaningful progress, students with learning disabilities will continue to experience frustration, never meeting the standard set.

Our students (in Tredyffrin/Easttown School District) are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment. Our true goal in education is to mold our youth into enthusiastic life-long learners. In order to do this, we need to nourish their creative thinking to prepare them to solve imminent, global, 21st century issues! Enough is enough!!!

Most Sincerely,

Carolyn Joy Martin
 Tredyffrin/Easttown Resident

6/13/2008