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**From:** Cecilia Castillo [cclmagana@yahoo.com.mx]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2008 12:37 PM  
**To:** j buckheit@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:** My opposition to the GCAs.

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

I am writing to express **my opposition** to the GCAs.

I am opposed because GCAs will not be provided in a format that meets the needs of diverse learners. My daughter has a different way of learning that has been improved and helped by the actual system.

I am opposed because we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams, which already are very stressful for the students and the teachers, taking time off from their normal teaching schedule.

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.

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.

I can tell you that coming from a different country, I'm impressed at the way our local school district is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace.

The introduction of GCAs would result in a state-controlled curriculum that reduces a local school district's ability to provide a curriculum based on community needs and desires.

Students who have received offers of acceptance from colleges may not have the opportunity to attend if they fail to pass a test.

Most sincerely,

6/13/2008

Cecilia and Ignacio Magana  
Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

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