

2696

RECEIVED

639

Buckheit, James**From:** Bernice [berniceralph@zitomedia.net]

2008 JUN 16 PM 4: 22

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 10:18 AM**To:** j buckheit@state.pa.usINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** GCAs

As a teacher of 43 years, and a full-time reading volunteer for five years in our public school systems, I can tell you that not all children will be able to pass these tests.

Not all children are capable of mastering all areas of the curriculum. However, they can and should be expected to learn to the best of their abilities.

It is unfair to penalize students who come to school every day, do all their homework, put their heart and soul into doing their best, and then judge their achievements on the basis of one test.

How many of us would be willing to base our accomplishments on one thing we've done?

Picasso, Tom Cruise, Whoopi Goldberg, Leonard Da Vinci, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Nelson Rockefeller are all examples of people who might not be able to pass these GCAs. Yet they went on to accomplish much in their life.

I know of students who could have passed these tests and yet have done nothing since graduation. School was easy for them and they expected life to be just as easy.

It's time educators become involved in these decisions. Instead we have people making decisions who should be thanking their teachers and the public education system who are responsible for their success.

One final question: would they be willing to take these tests and see if they could pass them? I bet most of them could not.

Sincerely,
Bernice Ralph

6/11/2008