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Buckheit, James

From: Held, Donna [dheld@ojrsd.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2008 1:45 PM
To: jrbuckheit@state.pa.us
Subject: High Stakes Exit Exams

2008 JUN 16 PM 4: 23

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2288 Jones Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

Dear Sirs;

I have taught special education in the public school setting for the past 10 years, and have served as department head for the past 3 years. I have strong opposition to GCAs. This would be yet **one more** assessment that our public school students need to take, when they are already assessed to excess! Our special education students, unless severely impaired, are required to take all pre -PSSA district assessments, PSSAs, general education assessments, and progress monitoring assessments (to fulfill IEP goal monitoring requirements) Even though the proposed GCA exam will not require our IEP students to score Proficient, they will still have to undergo the stress of taking another exam, which, like the PSSA, SERVES ONLY TO POINT OUT THEIR INADEQUACIES TO THEM, AS OPPOSED TO MEASURING THE PROGRESS THAT THEY HAVE MADE !

I urge you to listen and consider all consequences of inacting this legislation. The millions of dollars for assessment could be better spent creating researched-based programs to keep our at risk populations in school and engaged in learning

Do not act hastily.

Sincerely,

Donna F. Held
Math and Reading Support Teacher
Owen J. Roberts School District

6/11/2008