

**Buckheit, James**

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**From:** Laura Rossiello [rossiel@garnetvalleyschools.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2008 10:19 AM  
**To:** jrbuckheit@state.pa.us  
**Subject:** testing

2008 JUN 16 PM 4: 22

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

As a parent of two children, a high school teacher for 21 years and myself a poor test taker I am extremely opposed to requiring students to pass Graduation Competency Assessments in order to receive a high school diploma. In my 21 years of teaching I have experienced many students who work hard but are simply not good test takers. Putting the pressure on these students to pass a GCA is simply unfair. I have taught in urban and suburban school districts working with students from various socioeconomic backgrounds. I have a real concern about the urban student who may simply give up and drop out of school knowing they may not be able to pass a test and never receive a diploma. What will become of these students?

Personally, I was never a good test taker. I was the hard working student always studying, reading, researching and doing every assignment. I was in the national honor society in high school and successfully completed several AP courses. I was also in the national honor society while doing my undergraduate work. When I received my Master's degree I graduated with a 3.6 average. I earned a 4.0 on 30 credits beyond my Master's degree. With all of that I have always "choked" on standardized tests. I distinctly remember sitting in my high school guidance counselor's office going over my ACT scores as he advised me to set my sites a little bit lower. My parents and I both knew that the test score was not a good measure of my ability or potential.

Because of students like myself, the many students I have taught that are great students but poor test takers and my own two children I implore you to vote down the GCAs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laura M. Rossiello, M.A.Ed.