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From: Panaro Family [panaro@fast.net]
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2008 2:34 PM
To: j buckheit@state.pa.us; IRRRC; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com;
 jroe buck@pahouse.net
Cc: d milne@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov
Subject: Opposition to PA GCA's

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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.

Our local school district, Tredyffrin/Easttown School District, is effectively preparing all students for success in college and the workplace. There is a proven record of success here. I believe that additional tests would be detrimental to the education of our students. Please consider my reasons, listed below, for opposing the GCAs:

- (1) GCAs will impact the ability of our school district to teach our students relevant 21st century skills when valuable class time is diverted to prepare students to take these tests.
- (2) We already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams and through comprehensive, local assessment. I am opposed to this additional, repetitive testing of our students.
- (3) The addition of the GCA battery will reduce the number of instructional days and would impose an unreasonable load of high-stakes testing on students who are already facing a burden of stressful standardized tests.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Unlike a school district's own local proficiency assessment, GCAs do not offer the flexibility to meet the needs of students who have different learning styles and do not permit assessment of students in nontraditional ways. These students who may have received offers of acceptance from colleges may not have the opportunity to attend if they fail to pass these particular tests.

Please do not pass the proposed regulation for GCAs in Pennsylvania. They are not in our students' best interest.

Most sincerely,

Marybeth Panaro
 Easttown Township resident

6/16/2008