

Buckheit, James

From: MICHELE PLANUTIS [planutism@hasd.k12.pa.us]
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2008 8:28 AM
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Subject: Graduation Competency Assessments

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.

I am opposed because we already test our students in math, reading and science through the state PSSA exams.

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 am opposed because students are exhausted with testing. I feel it has reached a point where we can no longer accurately determine the ability of students because they take so many tests in a single year they do not put forth their best efforts on any of them any more! If there is millions to spend on testing, I feel it would be better suited putting it into programs for the classroom, inservicing teachers on new ways to present information, updating classrooms technologically, and investing in new textbooks and supplemental materials.

Most sincerely,

Michele Planutis
Hazleton Elementary Middle School Guidance Counselor
Hazleton Area School District