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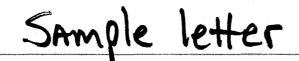
4.

Form letters

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
	873 Cindy Verguldi	Tredyffrin/Easttown				cindyverg@yahoo.com	
	867 Jennifer W. Leibowitz	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 664 Joseph Dr	Wayne	PA	19087	jennifer.leibowitz@gemino.com	n
	891 Karen & Steve Friedm	a Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 5 Briar Rd	Wayne	PA	19087		
	892 Cecilia & Ignacio Mag	a Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				cclmagana@yahoo.com.mx	
	894 Debbie Bookstaber	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 307 Irish Rd	Berwyn	PA	19312	debbie@utango.com	
	895 Sharon J. Lamb	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				sharon.lamb@comcast.net	
	896 Elizabeth H. Ward	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				ehward@verizon.net	
	897 Shannon Frigerio	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				frigerio@comcast.net	
	898 Cheryl Bergsma	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 271 Irish Road	Berwyn	PA	19312	bumperpa@msn.com	
	899 Samatha Ballard	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				snb537@yahoo.com	
	900 Marybeth Panaro	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				panaro@fast.net	
	901 Jennifer & John Conge	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				jconger5@verizon.net	
	902 Dottie Stinson	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 208 Walker Rd	Wayne	PA	19087	Law19087@aol.com	
	903 Sandi Gorman	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				sjg1566@mac.com	
	904 Todd Kantorczyk	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				Tkantorczyk@mgkflaw.com	
	910 Gretchen A. Guttman	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 852 Nathan Hale Road	Berwyn	PA	19132	tguttman@comcast.net	
	917 Natalie Sudall	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				nsudall@verizon.net	
ļ	919 Christina Chusid	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 446 Green Hill Lane	Berwyn	PA	19312	christina.chusid@verizon.net	
5	921 Lee Melchiorre	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD				melchior1@verizon.net	
5	924 Maria Kalilec	Tredyffrin/Easttown SD 1306 Karen Lane	Radnor	PA	19087	mkalilec@hotmail.com	
	790 Cindy E. Roach	Tredyffrin-Easttown resident				cindyroach99@verizon.net	
ł	802 Anita McLean	Tredyffrin-Easttown resident	•			AnitaMclean@aol.com	
8	305 Tom Brown & Roann F	Tredyffrin-Easttown res 471 Woodcrest Road	Strafford	PA	19087	roannbrown@comcast.net	
8	332 Julie Fisher	Tredyffrin-Easttown res 510 Green Hill Ln	Berwyn	PA	19312	jjfish3@verizon.net	
8	357 Gail T. Grib	Tredyffrin-Easttown resident				gtg2285@yahoo.com	

2008 JUN 23 AN IC: 03 NDEPENDENT REGULATORY

RECEIVED



Buckheit, James

From: Mindek, Renee [MindekR@TESD.NET]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2008 10:22 AM

To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us; irrc@irrc.state.pa.us; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; crubley@pahousegop.com; eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com

Subject: GCAs

Dear Representatives, Senators, Educators and Officials,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs.

I am opposed because 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 the diverse community needs and desires.

I am opposed because the addition of the GCS battery reduces 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.

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

I am opposed to double testing of our students.

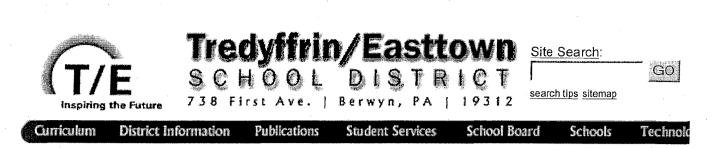
I am opposed because students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment.

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.

As a teacher, I am saddened and offended that legislature such as this has made it this far through the system. Teachers choose to teach because of a love of their students and their subject. Students thrive on this love. When that is replaced with yet another form of standardized testing, what will really be the difference between individualized instruction and students memorizing information for a test?

Most sincerely,

Renée Mindek Tredyffrin/Easttown Teacher



Comments on the Proposed Graduation Competency Assessment

The State Board of Education has officially posted the regulation regarding the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments (GCAs) in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. There is a 30 day comment period during which community members may submit written comments, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed regulation to be considered by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). All comments submitted during the 30 day period will be recorded by the State Board of Education and attached to the regulations as they move through the process.

Contact Information

Comments on Proposed GCAs

Interested community members are invited to submit comments on the GCA proposal to Jim Buckheit, Executive Director, State Board of Education; the IRRC; and the Republican and Democratic Chairs of tl Senate and House Education Committees: Senator James Rhoades, Senator Raphael Musto, Representati Jess Stairs and Representative James Roebuck. In addition, please consider sending a copy of your comments to local legislators: Representative Duane Milne, Representative Carole Rubley, Senator Edwi Erickson, and Senator Andrew Dinniman.

For ease of sending your comments via email, here is the list of contact email addresses to copy and paste into your email:

jbuckheit@state.pa.us; irrc@irrc.state.pa.us; jrhoades@pasen.gov; musto@pasenate.com; jstairs@pahousegop.com; jroebuck@pahouse.net; dmilne@pahousegop.com; crubley@pahousegop.com eerickson@pasen.gov; andydinniman@pasenate.com

Sample Letter and Talking Points

Sample letter to copy and paste into an email and then customize:

State Board of Education 333 Market St. Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Mr. Buckheit, and State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the GCAs.

(Choose reasons that best convey your feelings about 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.

Page 1 of 2

Comments on Proposed GCAs

I am opposed to double testing of our students. I am opposed because students in our district are already reaching proficiency in reading, math, and science either through the PSSA exams or through a comprehensive, local assessment.

I am opposed because GCAs do not test our students on relevant 21st century skills, and valuable class ti: will have to be diverted to prepare students to take these additional tests.

Most sincerely,

(name)

Tredyffrin/Easttown resident

If you prefer to compose your own letter, here are some talking points from the T/E School Board's March 24th resolution opposing the GCAs:

- Our local school district is currently preparing all students for success in college and the workplace
- Unlike a school district's own local proficiency assessment, GCAs do not offer the flexibility to me the needs of students who have different learning styles and do not permit assessment of students in nontraditional ways.
- The addition of the GCS battery reduces 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.
- 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.
- Students who have received offers of acceptance from colleges may not have the opportunity to att if they fail to pass a test.
- The current proposal could have significant economic impact on school districts operating under A fiscal restraints and the required expenditures have no proof of effectiveness.

For more information on the GCAs, please visit the Graduation Competency Assessment web site.

This is an important piece of legislation that could affect children in Pennsylvania beginning with the graduating class of 2014. The deadline to submit comments on the GCAs is **June 16, 2008**, so don't let the school year end before sending your comment!

(T/E

Back to the T/E School District Home Page

5/08, ccb