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**Buckheit, James**

**From:** mcupples1410@aol.com

2008 JUN 23 AM 10: 07

**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2008 2:35 PM

**To:** jwheatley@pahouse.net; 00statbd@psupen.psu.edu

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

**Subject:** Graduation Competency Assessment Tests

From: [mcupples1410@aol.com](mailto:mcupples1410@aol.com)

Sent: June 16, 2008

To: [jwheatley@pahouse.net](mailto:jwheatley@pahouse.net); [00statbd@psupen.psu.edu](mailto:00statbd@psupen.psu.edu)

Subject: GCAs

I am writing to express my opposition to GCAs. I am opposed because:

Graduation Competency Assessment Tests will:

- ❖ Reduce instructional time
- ❖ Decrease school district's budgets because the estimated cost could be as much as \$100 million and there is no clear knowledge of who is paying for this
- ❖ Increase dropout rates
- ❖ Fail to address alternative learning styles and diverse learners
- ❖ Increase standardized testing during a time when students are taking more tests than ever before
- ❖ Diminish a school district's ability to graduate their students
- ❖ Deemphasize the importance of the PSSA Test
- ❖ Not offer the flexibility for teachers to meet the needs of students in a non traditional way
- ❖ Replace learning with test taking and test taking skills

These are only a few reasons why I feel that GCAs are not in the best interest of the educational community and the students we teach.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Cupples

PAC Chair

Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

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