

**Cooper, Kathy**

**From:** Patti Schirripa [schirripa1@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 09, 2008 4:16 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** FW: GCA's

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INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY  
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I am writing to express my deep concern with the proposed GCA test to be administered to our senior high school students.

First, may I suggest implementing these additional tests will remove our students from their invaluable educational time within their core classes? Our students are concerned with the many tests they are currently facing. At our recent SHASDA meeting, the students discussed their unhappiness with the many days of testing placed upon them.

Our students are tested throughout their twelve years within our State School System and our PSSA tests should alert all of us to students that are struggling within their core classes. This is where the problem can and should be resolved. Our struggling students should not be a surprise to any of us at the end of their twelfth year. Each School District is acutely aware of a student not performing to the State standard through the PSSA testing. Assisting our students throughout their twelve years and bettering their instructional time within the subject they are not proficient may be a better solution. Testing in their senior year only exacerbates the student, the teachers and the administration. I would prefer we act proactively and prevent the need for a senior test.

May I suggest stronger Remediation classes for all students in all grades? May I also suggest that a student not reaching proficient in a core subject should double up with an elective within that core subject to enhance his overall readiness for the next PSSA?

Should we consider a State wide curriculum?

Would we be better served to supply our students with stronger core classes and less "fluff" type electives?

We discuss teaching "outside the box", we consider cyber classes and cyber schools, yet we regress to analyzing testing in its oldest form of coloring circles with a number 2 pencil. Please reconsider the additional testing and allow our students the instructional time they crave.

Thank you for listening, I welcome your comments,

Patricia H. Schirripa  
Carlynton School District