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From: Paul Ware [pware@wjhsd.net]
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2009 3:23 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: GCA exams

As a high school associate principal, I am not in favor of the proposal to implement GCA exams. There are several concerns with this proposal from an educational viewpoint. I feel that this idea should be studied more in-depth and should not be approved until reviewed by educational consultants. The result will not be higher standards but will instead cause more frustration and ultimately more drop outs. I urge you to look at this proposal more in depth before approval. We are currently struggling to ensure that our students pass the PSSA. If this test is not sufficient then we need to come up with a better reading, math, writing, and science assessment. The idea of coming up with ten new assessments will not solve the problem. We are creating more issues for the students who fail the new assessments and how we will handle them. The idea of using AP scores can't work because the scores are not released until mid-summer. These tests will need to be graded immediately, and there will be no time for senior retakes on the students who are about to graduate. Also it is very difficult to impose test security for the current PSSA tests. It will be nearly impossible to impose test security for these tests.

Sincerely,
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