Keep Education Decision Making Close to Home.

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THE LOSS OF IDAHO'S EDUCATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

Common Core
Myths vs. Facts

THE FOUR PILLARS OF COMMON CORE

The FOUR PILLARS Of America's Education Takeover

Common Core State Standards (CCSSI)

State Longitudinal Database (SLDS)

Teacher Accountability Measures

Turning Around Low Performing Schools

Subsidized by the Obama Administration

No Child Left Behind 1 & 2 (NCLB) Race To The Top (RTT)

State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF)

RestoreOkPublicEducation.com

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

ARRA Stimulus Funds: ($64 Billion for Education Reform)

- <u>State Fiscal Stabilization Fund</u>, March 2009 (SFSF)
  - Idaho applied for $491M and received $247M

- <u>Race to the Top</u> (RTTT)
  - Competitive Grant
  - Adoption of CC one of requirements to compete.
  - <u>SFSF Grant had to be approved in order to apply for the Race to the Top competition</u>.
  - We received money to adopt Common Core, just not specifically RTTT money.

<u>Memorandum of Agreement</u> required only two signatures to commit to CC

<u>ESEA Waiver</u> (No Child Left Behind)

Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Grant

- Idaho received $9 million in two grants to set up SLDS

- Now tracks disaggregate data instead of aggregate school and district data

- 560+ data points – some of which are intrusive into family privacy

- Changes to FERPA in 2008 and 2011. FERPA no longer protects your child's data

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Myth #1

Common Core (CC) is a state-led initiative.

Fact

The CC standards were initiated by private interests in Washington, DC, without any representation from the states.

(NGA, CCSSO, Achieve Inc., Gates Foundation)

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Myth #2

The federal government is not involved in the Common Core scheme.

Fact

The US Department of Education (USED) was deeply involved in the meetings that led to the creation of Common Core.

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MYTH #3

STATES THAT ADOPTED COMMON CORE DID SO VOLUNTARILY, WITHOUT FEDERAL COERCION.

Fact

Incentives and Threats:

- Race to the Top $
- Waiver from parts of NCLB
- Title I $

Etc. Etc. Etc.

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Myth #4

Under Common Core, the states will
still control their standards.

Fact

CC standards must be accepted word for word.

Cannot change or delete anything.

States may add 15% of additional content.
(which won't be covered on the national tests)

Myth #5

Common Core is *just* about standards, not curriculum; states will still control their curriculum.

Fact

Standards drive curriculum.

Tests drive curriculum.

2 testing consortia (PARCC and SBAC)

$$ from Dept. of Ed.

Grant applications - use $$ to develop curriculum models.

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Myth #6

The Common Core standards are rigorous and will make our children "college-ready."

Fact

Child Development Specialists say standards are inappropriate for young children and not challenging enough for high school students.

As one drafter of the CC math standards admitted, CC is designed to prepare students for a *non-selective, two-year community college, not a four-year university*.

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CC math standards will place our students about *two years behind* their counterparts in high-performing countries.

CC English language arts standards consist of "*empty skill sets* . . . [that] weaken the basis of literary and cultural knowledge needed for authentic college coursework."

Changes American model of classical education to resemble a *European model*.

De-emphasizes the study of creative literature and places students on "tracks" (college vs. vocational) at an early age.

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Myth #7

The Common Core standards are "internationally benchmarked."

Fact

Validation Committee was given no info on how CC stacked up against other high-achieving countries' standards.

They no longer claim its "internationally benchmarked" –

now only "informed by" other countries.

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Myth #8

Common Core Standards are evidence-based.

Fact

There is <u>no evidence</u> supporting the effectiveness of the standards.

Common Core has never been piloted.

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Myth #9

We need common standards to be able to compare our students' performance to that of students in other states.

Fact

Elementary/middle school-

Nat'l. Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

High school - SAT and ACT.

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Myth #10

We need common standards to help students who move from state to state.

Fact

Less than 2% of students/families move across state lines every year.

It is nonsensical to bind our entire education system in a straightjacket to benefit such a small number of students.

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Myth #11

SBAC tests won't take anymore time or money than the ISAT

FACT

SBAC (ISAT 2.0) will take twice as long and cost more $$$ that could be used for classroom instruction/improved teacher compensation.

Myth #12

Idaho can drop Common Core at anytime.

Fact

Permission has to be granted from USED to leave SBAC.

Exit from Consortium

Any State may leave the Consortium without cause, but must comply with the following exit process:

- A State requesting an exit from the Consortium must submit in writing their request and reasons for the exit request,
- The written explanation must include the statutory or policy reasons for the exit,
- The written request must be submitted to the Project Management Partner with the same signatures as required for the MOU,
- The Executive Committee will act upon the request within a week of the request, and
- Upon approval of the request, the Project Management Partner will then submit a change of membership to the USED for approval.

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Myth #13

Students Come First - Props 1, 2, and 3 are not related to Common Core.

FACT

"Students Come First is Rooted in Common Core..."

- ESEA Waiver

- Tiered Licensure

- Technology in the classroom

- All of the Governor's Education Taskforce items

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Myth #14

Common Core Gives Idaho More Local Control

FACT

▸ **Curriculum must be Common Core aligned.**

▸ **Districts must comply with Federal Data collection requirements.**

▸ **Districts are star rated based on how well students perform on tests.**

▸ **In turning around low-performing schools they are closed then re-opened as charter schools with no local school board or taxpayer accountability (Pillar Four)**

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Myth #15

The Presidents of IHE's (Institutions of Higher Education) state that Common Core eliminates the need for remedial classes in college

FACT

▸ **Final draft of Common Core State Standards released on June 1, 2010**

▸ **The Presidents of Idaho's IHE's signed a Memorandum of Understanding making the above hollow claim just *one day* after the standards were released.**

Myth #16

Student data is not being shared between state agencies or between states

FACT

The SLDS (Statewide Longitudinal Data System) grant requires "interoperability" of P-20W data between state agencies and across state lines.

More links regarding interstate exchange of sensitive data: Why Data Matter, Data Collection in ESEA Reauthorization, Idaho SLDS Analysis

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A New Vision for Locally-Controlled Idaho Public Education

- Return *real* local control – not just at a state level, but all the way down to the district level by:
  o Nullifying Common Core in Idaho
  o Reduce or enlarge each local school district to a stable, manageable, yet <u>accountable</u> size

  Parents will be more likely to get involved in their children's education and vote for school levies if they feel they have some control over what goes on in the halls of the local schools and the school district is small enough to be managed efficiently with transparent budgets.

- Wean the state and school districts off federal dollars and federal mandates. Currently some <u>50% of Idaho's State Dept. of Education budget</u> comes from federal monies.
  o Pull out of Common Core and its onerous, expensive infrastructure requirements. Doing so will immediately make a huge difference in the amount of money required to operate great schools

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A New Vision for Locally-Controlled Idaho Public Education

- Eliminate disaggregate data collection beyond the local school or district. Only basic aggregate data is necessary to monitor school and student performance.

- Adopt the best standards available in the nation that promote American ideals.
  - For example, the K-12 Massachusetts's ELA standards and California's math standards are all available *free* for our use here in Idaho – right now.

- Do away with high-stakes tests. Instead, conduct a non-Common Core aligned reading/writing test on odd years and a math achievement test on even years beginning in the third grade. Seek input from local teachers of various grades in working out a replacement plan.

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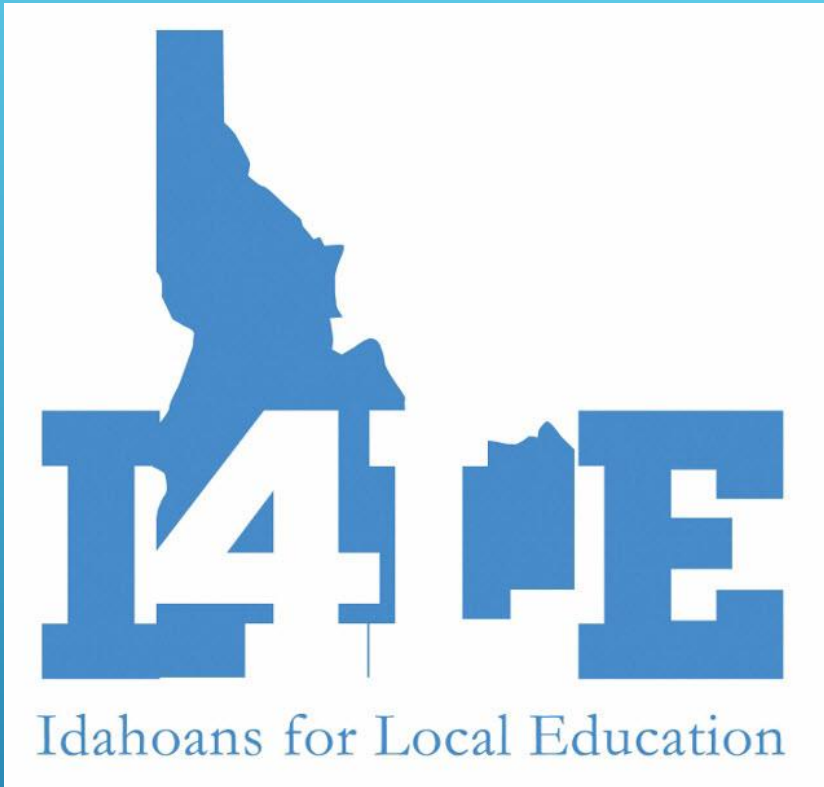# A New Vision for Locally-Controlled Idaho Public Education

- Ensure that teacher pay meets or exceeds the local area's median income and stop tiered licensure implementation. This can be accomplished as districts and the state shed Common Core and its associated high cost for technology, textbooks, testing, and teacher training. We're losing far too many great teachers every year who would otherwise stay but can't justify it because they see a professional dead-end in Idaho education.

- Restrict the ability of the State Board of Education and State Department of Education to enter into contracts and agreements without legislative approval – especially multi-state agreements like SBAC!

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Our 2015 Legislative Wish List

- **First, understand that Idaho is 2-4 years behind most other states in Common Core implementation**

- **Get Idaho OUT of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC tests)**

- **Every student to have access to an alternate path to graduation that doesn't require SBAC testing**

- **Plug data privacy holes (No, S1372 didn't do the job…)**

- ***Our ultimate goal:* Model our legislation after Ohio's 2014 bill to completely exit Common Core and require that we create uniquely Idahoan state standards**

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What YOU Can Do to Help

- Learn about it and <u>Sign the Petition</u> at www.IdahoansForLocalEducation.com

- Volunteer to lead in your area through our "County Connect" page at <u>www.IdahoansForLocalEducation.com</u>

- "Like" us on Facebook (Idahoans Against Common Core *and* Idahoans For Local Education); follow us on Twitter (Idaho4LocalEd)

- Talk about it with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and family

- Write 'Letters to the Editor' in local online and traditional media

- <u>Contact your state legislators and let them know you want Common Core removed from Idaho</u>

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