

To the Honorable Ron Highland, Chair of the Education Committee,

Please pass HB 2292 - the Local Control of Kansas Education Act now.

### **Federal Takeover of Education from the States and the Fight to Stop Common Core**

The federal government has been working to take over of the State power and take over the education of our children for many years. Recently Arne Duncan, the Federal Secretary of Education admitted that they are going to “Phase Out the Authority of the States” in Education.

The new regulations declare that Secretary Arne Duncan will amend ESEA to “**phase out the authority of States** to define modified academic achievement standards and develop alternate assessments based on those modified academic achievement standards in order to satisfy ESEA accountability requirements. These **amendments will permit, as a transitional measure, States that meet certain criteria to continue to administer alternate assessments... for a limited period of time.**”

<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=201410&RIN=1810-AB16>

“Phasing out the authority of the states” has been precisely the point for every last one of Duncan’s promoted education reforms, from Common Core to Common Data Standards to State Longitudinal Database Systems to P-20 programs to Common Core Assessments to teacher and school evaluations.

They hid this provision in a bill that just passed the U.S. House Committee that, like all good schemes before it, looks good on its surface, but does more damage to our education systems in the fine print. It doubles down on the schemes and the bribes by again promising more federal money for compliance with federal control.

"There seems to be a complete disconnect between what the authors say it will do and what it legally does, which is systematically dismantle both the reserved right of states to govern education and parents’ constitutional, inalienable right to lead in their child’s education.

On page 552, Subpart 4, section 6561 of HR 5, it states that the Secretary of Education can’t enforce any requirements under the program that would violate states’ rights unless the state legislature gives its consent to participate in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which encompasses around \$25 BILLION dollars in aid to states. Essentially, participating in the program to receive funds requires states to waive their state’s rights and those of the parent over their child if they conflict with ANY requirements of the program."

<http://hoosiersagainstcommoncore.com/alert-rep-todd-rokita.../>

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## **Common core has Lost Support Across the Nation**

Below are links of all the recent articles and information showing the support for Common Core disappearing across the nation. Parents, teachers, students and parents have seen the poor content, poor results, abhorrent testing regime and untenable mandates in this federal scheme and want out now!

### **NY Teacher Speaks for Kids: Strongly Objects to Common Core**

“VALATIE, NEW YORK - 1/20/2015-- Jennifer Rickert, 6th grade teacher for the Ichabod Crane Central School District speaks on behalf of her students at a Board of Education meeting and strongly objects to Common Core testing. Jennifer provides heartwrenching statements together with citing moral and ethical conflict over administration of developmentally inappropriate and controversial common core tests. Parents and colleagues in her support give standing ovation.”

<http://youtu.be/PV6HoDLsnH8>

### **‘Top teacher’ winner quits due to Common Core**

“Honored as the “Top Teacher” by ABC’s “Live with Kelly and Michael” show, Stacie Starr was speaking at an education forum earlier this week when she dropped a bombshell. The veteran teacher at Elyria High School in Elyria, Ohio, told a stunned audience Monday she will resign at the end of the school year because of the new federal Common Core system of standards and assessments adopted by her state, reported the local Chronicle-Telegram newspaper.

Stacie Starr

At the forum, which sought to help parents navigate the complex standardized testing system, Starr was talking about how special education has suffered under Common Core.

As she fought back tears, she disclosed she is leaving traditional education and plans ‘to teach in a different way.’”

“I can’t do it anymore, not in this ‘drill ‘em and kill ‘em’ atmosphere,” she said. “I don’t think anyone understands that in this environment if your child cannot quickly grasp material, study like a robot and pass all of these tests, they will not survive.”

<http://www.educationviews.org/top-teacher-winner-quits-due.../>

### **Poll: Common Core support among teachers plummets, with fewer than half supporting it**

“Anybody watching the escalating battle across the country over the [Common Core State Standards](#) and [aligned standardized testing](#) will hardly be surprised by a new national poll which reveals a significant loss of support over the last year — especially among teachers, whose approval rating dropped from 76 percent in 2013 to only 46 percent in 2014. Overall support for the Core dropped from 65 percent last year to 53 percent in 2014, with most of the defection among Republicans.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/08/19/poll-common-core-support-among-teachers-plummets-with-fewer-than-half-supporting-it/>

## **Poll: Most Americans Oppose Common Core Standards**

“Support for [Common Core educational standards](#) has dropped as awareness of the program has spread over the past year, [new polling finds](#).

Among Americans who have heard a great deal about the standards, just 33 percent support the standards while 59 percent oppose them, the [annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools](#) reveals...

The most common reason parents gave for opposing the standards was a belief that they will limit teachers' flexibility to offer instruction on what they think is best, a view shared by 65 percent of respondents. The next most common reasons were that teachers in the community oppose the standards (51 percent) the fact that they were initiated by the federal government (40 percent) and the belief that it would result in a national curriculum and national tests (38 percent).”

[http://www.ozarksfirst.com/story/d/story/poll-most-americans-oppose-common-core-standards/10239/EaiKbo02zEiVDGU-wDL3yQ#.U\\_Ylqipq8h8.facebook](http://www.ozarksfirst.com/story/d/story/poll-most-americans-oppose-common-core-standards/10239/EaiKbo02zEiVDGU-wDL3yQ#.U_Ylqipq8h8.facebook)

## **Why so many parents hate Common Core**

“The U.S. Department of Education is legally prohibited from having any control over curriculum or instruction in the nation's public schools, but nonetheless Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is a zealous advocate of the new [Common Core standards for students' proficiency in English and math](#).

First, he said their critics were members of extremist groups, and he recently assailed the parents who criticize them as "white suburban moms who — all of a sudden — their child isn't as brilliant as they thought they were, and their school isn't quite as good as they thought they were.”

His remarks were prompted by the nearly unanimous outrage expressed by parents -- moms and dads -- at public forums in suburban districts in New York, following the release of the abysmal results of the new Common Core tests.”

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/11/25/opinion/ravitch-common-core-standards/index.html>

## **Over 500 Professors Sign Letter saying that Bush-Obama Style Test Based Accountability Does Not Work**

“Both Congress and the Florida Legislature need to pay attention! More than five hundred university professors signed a statement authored by the National Education Policy Center detailing that test based accountability used during the Bush and Obama administrations, as well as in Florida and many other states, have been ineffective in improving academic achievement or closing achievement gaps. In other words, both No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top/Common Core have been a failure.”

<http://www.flstopcccoalition.org/news/2015-02/over-500-professors-sign-letter-saying-that-bush-obama-style-test-based-accountability-does-not-work.htm>

## **More States Push Back Against Common Core**

"Mississippi is practicing competitive federalism, which is the process of states evaluating their current standards, keeping what is good, discarding what is bad, and using what has worked in other states. Competitive federalism is the opposite of one-size-fits-all approaches like Common Core."

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/02/19/states-pushback-common-core/>

Repeal Common Core now!

Please support the Local Control of Kansas Education Act (HB 2292) and give our State back control of our education and our State and local school boards. We must terminate the connection to the federal government that is destroying our schools and our state budgets.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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