

Mary Souza's Newsletter

October 22, 2014

Does Common Core = Control?

Dear Newsletter Readers,

Common Core is a new program of education being implemented all over our country. It supposedly started a number of years ago as an idea from a group of Governors so their states could compare educational outcomes. Somewhere in the process, though, it was hijacked by special interests, and now it is a different beast. To be kind, I'll just say it's a good idea gone bad.

Here are some good aspects to Common Core (CC):

1. It attempts to raise educational standards.
2. It's well organized.

There are many serious concerns about CC:

1. It's controlled by Federal Government money.
2. It's an untested, unproven new system.
3. The "standards" are copyrighted and owned by a private business. By contract, not one word of the standards may be changed by the states or the local school boards to customize it to the needs of their students.
4. The SBAC test, which is connected to the standards, is also copyrighted and owned by a private business. Idaho changed the name of the SBAC test here to the "ISAT-2" test, which is very confusing because it makes people think it's the same old ISAT test they've used for years. No. It's the SBAC, with a different name.
5. CC requires tracking of detailed data on each child, and their home life, all the way through their education and into their working years. The data is sent to the Federal Gov.
6. My cousin, who is a Master Teacher, tells me CC does not teach the whole, individual child. It limits teacher innovation and tries to push all students into the same box.
7. Across the country, many states are unhappy with CC. Four states never adopted it to begin with, six states have dropped it completely, eight more are trying to get out, and seven states have delayed implementation of key elements of the program. That's 25 states. CC is not popular with many on the left, the right and in the middle.
...there are so many more problems. I could go on and on. There are also very good ideas for replacing CC too, which could increase standards and keep both control and data at the local level.

If you have kids, grandkids, or are just interested in our community, please take a couple of hours this coming **SATURDAY, OCT. 25, from 3:00 – 5:00pm**, in the CdA Library's Community Room, to attend a presentation called "What is Common Core?" The main speaker will be Mila Wood, from Idahoans for Local Education in Boise. Check out their web site @ www.idahoansforlocaleducation.com This forum is being presented by United

Parents Forum, a local group of concerned parents with school-aged children. Please come to learn more and support this worthy group of involved parents.

Education is such a crucial element in every child's life. We cannot ignore this overt effort by government to control the learning methods in our schools. Please pass the word. This is just the beginning.

Hope to see you there! --Mary

Campaign website: marysouzaforidaho.com

Facebook: Mary Souza for Idaho

Donations to: PO Box 2223, CdA, ID 83816

Mary Souza is a 27 year resident of CdA, local small business owner and is the Republican nominee for Idaho Senate, Dist. 4. Her opinions are her own. To sign up for the free weekly newsletter, or access a free archive of past columns, visit www.marysouzacda.com. Comments can be sent to marysouzacda@gmail.com. Please visit the local issues web site www.OpenCdA.com for more discussion.