



November 19, 2013

Summary of recommendations to the Assembly Select Committee on Common Core Standards:

I would like to thank Chairman Thiesfeldt for holding these hearings and all of the citizens who came to share their thoughts on the Common Core Standards. I have very strong concerns with our state's implementation of these standards, including the process (or lack thereof) by which the Department of Public Instruction adopted them. While I can agree with those who argue that our state should have better standards for the education of our students, it is the inevitable 'slippery slope' that follows the release of local control that most concerns me.

First and foremost, I think it is of great importance that we emphasize our state's sovereignty in the delivery of education to our students. I cannot stress enough the right of local control for our schools and the continuation of this right should be made clear to all parents and educators.

Local school districts must have the ability to use, or develop, standards higher than Common Core and we should reject the clause under Common Core that a school district may only add an additional 15% of state-specific standards. This is an unrealistic and unenforceable mandate. If our schools truly retain local control and these standards are just a base, then a school MUST have the ability to improve upon these standards in any way as they see fit.

We need to provide protections against the sharing of personal student data. We should limit what information is shared beyond a child's school and guarantee to our kids and parents that their information will be kept confidential.

Finally, we must perform a periodic review of any standards that our state adopts. We need to have the ability to look at necessary updates and changes, as well as whether our state should continue with the standards in place or develop new ones. We should reject any further expansion of the standards, as well as any federal or state dollars to do so.