

An Open Letter to Governor Nathan Deal on Common Core Standards Initiative

Dear Governor Deal:

As you know, there is a rising tide of opposition among parents and other taxpayers to the Common Core national standards and their accompanying framework. This new education policy was advanced by the previous administration without legislative debate. The Executive Branch has no legitimate constitutional power to bypass the people's duly elected representatives when such fundamental policy shifts are under consideration. But now that Common Core is being examined openly and objectively, Georgians are increasingly alarmed at the direction it is taking our schools, our teachers, and our children.

Governor Deal, we have been some of your strongest supporters in the past, because we know you to be a conservative leader willing to stand up to the federal government and other powerful interests whose agendas conflict with what's best for Georgia. We ask you now to be such a leader on the issue of Common Core. The problems we raise are serious, they are well documented, and they threaten not only our children's education but our system of federalism and republican government. We have previously provided your office with extensive research supporting our concerns. This research should persuade you to exercise your leadership in supporting Sen. William Ligon's legislation, SB 167 and SB 203, which would help restore Georgia's educational sovereignty, not in name only, but in fact.

Here is a very brief summary of the problems with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS):

Even though former Governor Sonny Perdue and former State School Superintendent Kathy Cox jumped on the bandwagon for national standards, CCSS did not result from a "state-led" process.

CCSS emerged from two private trade associations in Washington, D. C., with massive financing by private interests such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and was pushed on the states by the federal government through the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant. This was not a routine upgrade of standards properly accomplished by the State School Board and the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) – it was a radical shift in how education would be controlled and delivered in this state. This was accomplished through Executive fiat, rubber-stamped by an appointed School Board - a result that was predetermined when the RTTT application was first signed. The process ignored the foundational principle of republican government, the consent of the governed, which is exercised through the Legislative Branch.

CCSS eliminates state and local control over what Georgia children learn in English language arts and math.

With the adoption of CCSS, Georgia no longer controls its English language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards. Rather, that control was transferred to unaccountable private groups which copyrighted the standards, a consortium of states that must agree on revisions, and the federal government through the RTTT grant conditions. Georgia may have a "seat at the table," but it sits there in an educational straightjacket. GaDOE's own training materials acknowledge that "100% of the CCSS must be delivered in our curriculum" and "CCSS must be addressed at the grade level where they are assessed." With Common Core, Georgia is no longer in control. Georgia Executive Branch officials had no legal authority to relinquish our voice to outsiders.

CCSS eliminates competition and innovation among states and is contrary to the principle of federalism.

We respect your desire to improve Georgia education so that it bolsters economic competitiveness, but CCSS actually works against this goal. How will Georgia outperform other states if it is doing the same thing educationally as the other states? We believe Georgia should be a leader, not a follower, in education. Our Founders staked the preservation of individual liberty on the system of federalism, yet this CCSS centralized framework restricts educational freedom, interferes with local control, compromises state sovereignty, and creates additional tax burdens to support decisions in which we had no voice. Innovation thrives in an atmosphere of freedom; without

freedom there can only be stagnation. If we are nationalizing our system and allowing outside entities to drive our educational priorities, why should we continue to support highly paid superintendents and administrative staff who have become mere facilitators of this national agenda?

CCSS is part of a workforce-development plan that stifles innovation in the free market and ignores the primary purpose of education.

The overall CCSS framework uses public schools to prepare “workers” for existing corporations in existing industries. This narrow focus on producing employees in a government-directed economy ignores the most fundamental responsibility of schools – to provide a genuine liberal-arts education that allows students to not only pursue whatever career they desire, but also develop their full potential as human beings. But even focusing only on workforce-development, this approach is doomed to fail since it ignores the dynamism of capitalism. How can government, or government schools, possibly predict what kinds of jobs will be available in a particular region five, ten, or twenty years from now? Is it not common sense that the broad liberal-arts education that built the greatest economic power on earth can also sustain that economic position?

CCSS math standards are inferior to the previous Georgia Performance Standards (GPS).

The drafters of the CCSS math standards admit that the standards are not designed to prepare students for authentic university mathematics. The chief drafter of the math standards, Jason Zimba, admitted before the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that the standards are not for STEM and are not for selective universities. The definition of “college-readiness” is minimal and means, in Zimba’s words, that a “minimally college-ready student is a student who passed Algebra II.” In fact, CCSS fails to even advance beyond an incomplete Algebra II course; it contains only minimal amounts of trigonometry, with no pre-calculus or calculus. Moreover, even the Fordham Institute, a staunch CCSS proponent, has criticized CCSS’s experimental approach to geometry.

Fordham also found the previous Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) had the sixth-best math standards in the nation and were at least comparable to CCSS. (Fordham ignored the problematic features of CCSS, such as the delay in teaching Algebra I, and should have given GPS a superior rating.) Moreover, Dr. Mary Kay Bacallao of Mercer University performed a line-by-line comparison of the CCSS math standards to the previous GPS and concluded that CCSS math is demonstrably inferior.

Finally, Dr. Bud Peterson, President of Georgia Tech, stated at a 2013 conference in Atlanta that he “continue[s] to believe that for admission to a ‘technology based’ college program [such as Georgia Tech], algebra needs to be taught in 8th grade so that the students can have some exposure to calculus before entering college.” CCSS moves Algebra I to ninth grade, stops with Algebra II, and makes it difficult if not impossible for the great majority of Georgia students to reach calculus in high school. Under CCSS, will any Georgia public-school student be qualified to enter Georgia Tech?

Dr. Peterson’s views are not unique. The National Mathematics Advisory Panel strongly recommended placing Algebra I in eighth grade. Our high-performing international competitors place it there, or even in seventh grade. Doing this allows a comfortable progression to pre-calculus and calculus by twelfth grade and greatly increases students’ chances of obtaining a Bachelor’s degree in college. Federal studies, “The Toolbox” and “The Toolbox Revisited,” show that only 39.3% of students who complete no more than Algebra II (the Common Core standard) will earn a Bachelor’s degree, compared to 60% who study trigonometry, 75% who study pre-calculus, and 83% who study calculus.

Even worse, Common Core’s failure to include higher mathematics in high school will disproportionately harm minority and lower socio-economic class children. When Algebra I is placed in ninth grade, as it is under Common Core, the students who are most able to avail themselves of the compressed progression to calculus by twelfth grade are children from well-to-do families –those who can afford private tutoring and supplemental courses. Georgia should be helping less fortunate students, not making it harder for them to enter and graduate from college.

CCSS ELA standards are inferior to the previous Georgia Performance Standards.

The nation's premier expert on ELA standards, Dr. Sandra Stotsky, who authored the ELA standards in Massachusetts that helped propel that state to the top of national rankings and achievement, compared Common Core ELA to the GPS and concluded that Common Core ELA is a huge step down for Georgia. The Georgia Public Policy Foundation noted that according to Fordham's own analysis, Georgia already had the seventh-best ELA standards in the nation before CCSS. Furthermore, Fordham had recognized that Georgia's former ELA standards were superior in many ways to Common Core ELA. The literature-rich GPS has been exchanged for Common Core's empty skill sets and excessive use of "informational texts."

CCSS introduces pedagogy and requirements that are developmentally inappropriate for young children and special-needs students.

Perhaps because no experts on early childhood education participated in the CCSS development, the resulting standards for those grade levels are disturbingly at odds with the brain development of young children. Many of the standards require abstract thinking that a young child's brain is incapable of performing. The developmental inappropriateness of the K-3 standards is so severe that over 500 early-childhood professionals signed a "Joint Statement of Early Childhood Health and Education Professionals on the Common Core Standards Initiative" expressing "grave concerns" about the standards.

Many parents and teachers of special-needs students are also observing the detrimental effect of CCSS's "one size fits all" mandates. Requiring these students to conform to unrealistic standards could be devastating to their emotional health, and deeply unfair to the teachers whose evaluations will be based on the students' performance.

CCSS ushers in a fundamentally flawed evaluation system for both teachers and schools.

Part of the RTTT/No Child Left Behind waiver structure was the requirement that states tie teacher evaluations to the experimental CCSS-aligned tests and use an unproven value-added evaluation system. Not only does this disenfranchise teachers who teach challenging student populations, it also discourages teaching practices that have been effective for years. In addition, the CCRPI measures are fundamentally flawed as they allow schools to inflate their scores using "bonus" points to conceal a school's true "grade."

CCSS is part of a broader framework that requires intrusive data-collection, violating the privacy of students and families.

One of the "priorities" of the RTTT competition was that states agree to enhance their statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS), creating and expanding systems that facilitate collection and sharing of massive amounts of student data. Myriad federal initiatives, such as the Common Education Data Standards and Assessment Operability Framework, tie these expanded SLDS to CCSS. As long as Georgia remains in the CCSS Initiative, it is almost a certainty that Georgia students' data will escape the boundaries of the state.

Georgia is aggressively fulfilling the SLDS commitments it made in its RTTT application. Despite promises from GaDOE that all student data remains within the state, Georgia is anchoring a multi-state data-sharing initiative called the Southeast Education Data Exchange (SEED). GaDOE is apparently not as concerned about data privacy as Georgia parents are.

While we appreciate your Executive Order limiting certain categories of data-collection and data-sharing, an executive order can be changed with the stroke of a pen. Moreover, the recent regulatory gutting of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) by the Obama Administration endangers the privacy of student data even if it remains with GaDOE, because the new FERPA regulations remove most of the limitations on what even state agencies may do with private, personally identifiable data. Georgia needs to make a clean break with this RTTT/ CCSS system that so threatens our children's privacy.

CCSS constitutes an enormous unfunded mandate on our local school districts.

In the rush for RTTT money, CCSS was adopted without serious analysis of future fiscal ramifications. One example of this is the recent decision, properly taken by you and Dr. Barge, to withdraw Georgia from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing consortium because of PARCC's ruinous costs. How could those costs not have been foreseen? Since the progressive education "experts" behind CCSS insist that all testing be converted to online assessments, will Georgia just trade one testing boondoggle for another and stick local districts with an ever-increasing price tag for technology infrastructure? As taxpayers, we object to paying for radical education reform that we never approved in the first place. What other unforeseen financial ramifications will appear? Will we see regional redistribution of funds for promoting RTTT "equity" at the expense of local control of tax funds? Will RTTT's push for extended learning time herd all states into an extended calendar to ensure uniform testing? Where does it end?

CCSS constitutes an enormous nationwide experiment on our children.

Though the CCSS promises more "rigor" in standards, the developers mistakenly confuse developmentally inappropriate learning goals for "rigor" at the lower grades, withhold higher learning opportunities in mathematics at the high school level, and impose arbitrary elevation of "informational texts" over literature in ELA, ignoring the evidence that literature is the best way to prepare students for college. Furthermore, the rhetoric that these standards are somehow the magic bullet to provide the skills students need to compete in the global economy is nonsense. There is no independent research to back up this claim. It is a mere slick sales phrase designed to hoodwink businesses and citizens alike. The real agenda here is centralizing control of education and giving educational monopolies access to our tax dollars and our children.

Georgians don't want CCSS.

Regardless of whether the "experts" insist that CCSS will ultimately be a good thing, the people of Georgia, who pay the bills, have demonstrated that they reject national standards and a national framework for education. Evidence includes the numerous anti-CCSS resolutions passed by Republican groups, including a resolution by the State GOP Resolutions Committee and the entire State Committee of the Georgia GOP.

But opposition is not limited to Republican voters. When Georgia citizens learn the truth about CCSS, they overwhelmingly express dismay that our state would ever have joined this initiative. CCSS potentially enables enormous centralized power over education, and citizens of all political persuasions recognize that power will someday rest in the hands of officials they oppose. This is the danger of centralized, standardized control.

Governor Deal, we ask you to consider the legacy you will leave this state when you leave office. That legacy will be tarnished if the pleas of the people of Georgia to exit CCSS are ignored. But if you exercise leadership to help us withdraw from CCSS, Georgia can act on its own to truly improve its education system through superior standards and effective teaching. Georgia can be a beacon not only for first-class education, but for resistance to the gradual but relentless intrusion of the federal government and powerful private interests that do not have the good of Georgians at heart.

Governor Deal, every year of schooling is critical in a child's life. Time is of the essence in the effort to reclaim our educational autonomy. We ask you to do the right thing. Thank you.

Sincerely,
[the undersigned]

Tanya Ditty, M.Ed.
State Director
**Concerned Women for America
of Georgia LAC**

Whitney Neal
Director of Grassroots
FreedomWorks

Jack and Debbie Staver
Northwest Georgia 9/12 Project

William R. Wilson
**Association of Christian Schools
International, Southeast Region**

Jack Smith
North Georgia Tea Party Alliance
Gilmer County, GA

Anne Davis
Habersham Patriots

Rob Adkerson
North Georgia 912

*Michael H. Bryant, Ed.D., Executive
Director*
**Georgia Association of Christian
Schools**

Educational Freedom Coalition
Represents concerned parents, teachers,
citizens and school board members who
oppose the Common Core.

Jane Robbins, Esq.
Senior Fellow
American Principles In Action

Roger Fitzpatrick - President
Ron Hooper - Team Activity Chairman
Mike Scupin - Founder & Local Coordinator
Lanier Tea Party Patriots
Gainesville, GA

Pat Tippett and Kay Godwin
Co-chairmen
Georgia Conservatives in Action
Appling, GA

Paul A. Smith
Citizen Impact USA
Loganville, GA

Cyndy Hartman, President
Denise Beall, Vice-President
Pat Daugherty, Program Chair
**Oconee Regional Republican
Women**

Julianne Thompson, Co-chairman
Atlanta Tea Party

Steve Ramey
Gwinnett Tea Party

Michael Opitz, President
The Madison Forum

Liz Gailey
Tea Party of Northeast Georgia

Mike Griffin, Public Affairs Representative
Georgia Baptist Convention

Shane and Sonja Gaither
Taking Back our Schools
Jesup, GA

Nolen and Diane Cox
Valdosta Tea Party
Valdosta, GA

Jack and Joyce Smith
Liberty Group Tea Party
Ellijay, GA

Mike and Leslie McPherson
**Carroll County Tea Party
Association**

Conrad Quagliaroli
Cherokee Tea Party Patriots

Hal Schneider, Chairman
Forsyth County Tea Party

Jan Barton
North Fulton & Friends TEA Party

Angela Bean
South Atlanta Tea Party
Peachtree City, GA

Chris Owen, President
Eagle Forum of Georgia

Sue Ella Deadwyler
Georgia Insight

Jef Fincher
**Citizens Helping America Restore
Government Ethics**

Judy Craft, Activist Leader
Stop Predatory Gambling Georgia

Vesta Smith, President, CEO and Founder
**The American Heritage Society of
Georgia, Inc.**

Sam Letson
**TEA Party Patriots of Jackson
County**

This list represents just a portion of the citizens of Georgia who are asking the Governor to stop experimenting with our children and to withdraw Georgia from the Common Core Initiative.

Aaron Bennet, Adrienne H Gullen, Aileen Malnerich, Aimee Rosen, Alanna Cooksey, Alexis Dosng, Kimberly Koehn,Alfreda Brannon, Nathan Adams, Alicia Young, Alison Johnson, Allen Blass, Aloi Fisher, Alyssa Barbour, Amanda Barber, Kim Acres,Amanda Blankenship, Neal Gardner, Amanda Derusha, Amanda Holland, Amanda Lail, Amanda Pper, Amanda Torres, Amber Whitrook, Nancy Anderson,Amber Bunsed, Nelisha Whittemore, Amelia Floroyance, Amy Auger, Amy Brown, Amy Jacks, Amy Jamea, Amy Kirkland, Tara Barnett,Amy Lavancha, Nick Setchel, Amy Malcure, Amy Matkovich, Amy Schriever, Amy Sherwood, Amy Villaine-Auger, Amy Von Iter, Deborah Beall,Amy Wetmore, Nicole Barresi, Ana Escobar, Andrea Beiniric, Andrea Hunsucker, Andrea Miller, Andrea Papadakis, Andrew Berman, Mary Grabar,Andrew Brimer, Nicole Pouchier, Andrew Charles Cooper, Andrew J Hood, Angela Bean, Angela Halstead, Angela Hulleander, Angela King, Fletcher Hodges,Angela Richey, Nilsa Kroll, Angie Bannister, Anja Archer, Anjelica Guthrie, A nn Davis, Ann Fowler, Ann Glenn, Ron Hooper,Anna Abcaba, Amanda Harris Mcbride, Anne Hunyer, Anne Perry, Anne Rutland, Anne Washington, Anthony Collingwood, Antonio Carter, Lillie Jenkins April Brewster, Tonya Jennings, Bettyann Amoroso, Ciera Taylor, Diane Nobles, Greta McDonough, John Duffey, Jackie Hartley, Jim Kennedy,April Grece, Jenni Hilton, Beverly All, Cindi Blackstone, Diane S Vann, Gretchen Sisti, John G. Lane Jr, Jackie Nichols, Amy Villauaue Auger,April Childers, Jennifer, Beverly Gutting, Cindy Jones, Diann (English) Carmichael, Gretchen Vivanco, John Hurkmans, Jackie Trainer, Grace Hulsey,Arnold Zwickel, Jennifer Greven, Beverly Roseberry, Cindy Irwin, Dianne Devore, Grisselle Lares-Bazzani, John Hurkmans, Jaime M. Keasler, Gary Languueil,Arthur Bryan, Sherrie Stephens, Beverly Roseberry, Cindy Walker, Dirk Whittemore, Gunjan Sanan, John Kohl, Jamie Green, Tyler Johnson, Ashama Frett, Sherry Kendrick, Bill Beahan, Claire P. Harrison, Dirk Whittemore, Gus Lopez, John Lewis, James Sellers, William Bedell, Ashley Bates, Sherry Piper, Bill Edwards, Clarence Phagan, Dominique Neeley, Hali Larcye, John O. Crouch, James Avitabile, John Rogers, Ashley Ledford, Sherry Piper, Bill Mehrof, Clark Gum, Donald S. Conkey, Harold Neely, John Olsen, James Barker, Diana Holmes, Ashlyn Thompson, Sheryl Murphy, Bill Ragan, Claudia Weiss, Donna, Harold Phillips, John Oubre, James Crompton, Mike Kunkel, Aua Rosado, Odbdlbrme@a1@gmail.com, Bill Swing, Claudio Salvi, Donna Autman, Harry F. Martin, John Roche, James Davidson, Jamie Campbell,Audrey M Neu, Olivia Walker, Bill Williams, Clayton Williamson, Donna Chakan, Heather Burns, John Rollinson, James King, Pat Daugherty,Audrey Stallworth, Amiee Mccann, Billy S. Palmer, Cleo Muteyi, Donna Gregory, Heather Foskey, John Wetterhan, James L. Bates, Jef Fincher, Autum Davis, Elizabeth Marlow, Biuro@Inkom.Ig.Pl, Colleen Morrison, Donna K Spoon, Heather Henderson, John Winfree, James L. Blue, Roger Fitzpatrick,Autum Rivers, Charles Warren, Bluesline71@gmail.com, Colleen S., Donna L. Chastain, Heather Jones, Johnathan Bysura, James Lavancha, Rebecca Flannery,B Dunn, Linda Radcliffe, Bobbie Martin, Connie Martin, Donna Payne, Heather Nylin, Johnny Blackman, James Mcgee, Betty Martin,Barbara Dean, Amber, Bobbie Munson, Connie Mcfall, Donna Powers, Heather Sciolis, Jolee Benoit, James Moran, Joe Martin,Barbara G. Cunningham, Tara Mewbourne, Bobbie Pethel, Connie Wolfe, Donna Powers, Heather Stewart, Jon Cheslike, James Satcher , Gary Mcbride,Barbara H. Leonard, Tavnaya Tlstira, Nabowsy Mcpherson, Conrad Quagliaroli, Donna Simmons, Heather Taylor, Jon Guymon, James Skinner, Traci Mcbride,Barbara J Asperger, Ted Brobst, Brady Spruell, Corinne Hede, Donnie Holland, Heather Tubbs, Joquet Calhoun, James Newbome, June Miller,Barbara Magley, Ted Melko, Brandi Allen, Cory Stevenson, Donny Brown, Helga Redden, Jorge Sandoval, Jamie Pleasant, Jeff Pharr,Barbara Miller, Teresa Clayton, Brandi Harvey, Courtney Daniel, Dorothy Cunniff, Hemda Mera, Joseph Guymon, Jan Barton, Molly Labode,Barbara Moon, Michael Renew, Brandon Coalsn, Cristina Baker, Dottie Delisle, Henry W Aldridge, Joseph Paul Diederich, Jan Driskell, Sandy Romero,Barbara Nobbe, Michael Wallace, Brandy Marcinko, Crystal Payne, Douglas Kroon, Herb Garner, Joseph Scherer, Jan Horne, Ken Romero,Barry Krzrzs, Dana Hensen, Brenda Howard, CW Warren, Douglas Piper, Herm Plybon, Joseph Vinson, Jan Mattock, Anonymus Teacher,Be Potts , Faye Wallace, Brenda Reid-Keoh, Cydney Proctor, Douglas Ray, Hilary Porterfield, Joshua Parkerson, Jane Robbins, Cindy Wright, Ben Porterfield, Mark Pettitt, Brenda Stoll, Cyndy Hartman, Dr. Traci Mcbride, Hilary Massey, Joshua Parrott, Jane Sawyer, Lynn Street,Ben Toombs, G. Terry, Brian L. Dunsha, Cynthia Albright, Drew Traylor, Holly Hacker, Joy Kingsley, Janet Peters, Julia Bridges,Benny Horne, Jennifer Ippolito, Brichelle Young, Cynthia Gibson, Duster Smith, Holly Mulcaiy, Joyce Cross, Janice Garey, Margaret Ann Buck,Bereavel Webb, Shonna Shanton, Bridget Blackwell, Cynthia Hinkle, Dusty Lusk, Howard Devore, Joyce Mayfield, Janie E. Elliott, Robert Buck,Beryanna Dorleans, Simone Melin, Brigidia Tellz, Cynthia M. Springsteen, Duwana Bales, Hubert Emory Taylor, Joyce Neuman, Jasmine Maple, Knett Butler, Beth Grimsley, Sindy Arana, Brooke Wolff, D A Morda, E. McGe, Sonja Kinard Hugone630@hotmail.com, Joyce Schumacher, Jason Guymon, Jan Kennedy,Beth Kaufman, Brua Moer, Dahlys Hamikon, Earl Cooper, Hunter Gordon, Joyce Alexander, Joyce Schumacher, John Hede, Dottie Krull,Beth Strickland, Shirley Edgel, William D. Dale Fontana, Eddie Egust , India Godfrey, Joyce Yung, Jason Stuckey, Larry Krull,Bethany Johnson, Margo Muller, Brunella Deshazo, Dale Hols, Edith Marchman, Ingrid Metz, Joyce. Newman, Jason Sweetman, Mary Landry,Betty Bennett, Maria Luszczyk, Bryan Land, Dan Asperger, Edmond Sevilla, Iwen Tai, Juanita Daddo, Jason Tucker, Bridget Lee,Betty Cass, Amy Masaschi, Bryan Ligan, Dana Barker, Edmund Oswal, J Barton, Judi Quigley, Jason Williams, Barbara Magley,Betty Jackson, Ruth Baumann, Byron Godwin, Dana Hoffman, Dawn Eickeszka, J. Eric Corban, Judith Watkins, Jane Blackstone, Jimmy Butler, Betty Plybon, Mery Burns, C. Cook, Dana Klyber, Edward Waller, Carol Corban, Judy Walker, Jean Heck, Erik Wisotsky,Kenny King, Gina Vernola, Candice Serafin, Danette Lazenby, Eileen Baker, Jack Cunningham, Judy Carlson, Jean Short, Elizabeth Philpott,Kent Cochran, Amy Nix, Carey Louthan, Daniel Reid, Elaine Pettway, Jack Smith, Judy Chapman, Jean Spain, Neil Philpott,Kevin Davis, Wendy Porter, Carey Louthan, Daniel Tillyberry, Elaine Poitevint, Jackie Alexander, John Craft, Jeanne Seaver, Colleen X, Kevin Garrett, William D. Blackman Jr, Carl Payntor, Danielle King, Elaine Smyda, Kellee Carter, Judy Spruill, Jena Thomas, Christine Munn,Kevin Grey, William Hamilton, Carla Rutherford, Danita Fisher, Elise Goldsmith, Kellen Boyd, Judy Whitwood, Jennie Cox, Jesse Cain,Kevin R. Eitel, William Hudson, Carmen Rampogna, Daphne Ferrell, Elizabeth Walker, Kelley Krohnert, Julianne Thompson, Jennifer Bernhard, Mary Burns,Kiay Wimpey, William James, Carol Corban, Daphine Gunn, Elizabeth Bauer, Kelli Clore, Julie Gilsom, Jennifer Coppage, Dawn Catrini,Kerlee Shaver, Nneoma Onusuka, Kelley Corban, Daphne Rosbury, Elizabeth Copeland, Kelli Yarbrough, Julie Harris, Jennifer Esparza, Vincent Catrini,Kim Booth, Margaret Schaaaf, Carol Ehre, Jean Garrison, Elizabeth Cott, Kelly Ashman, Julie Lester, Jennifer Hacker, George Sartan,Kim Calhoun, Andrew Gregor, Carl Mehrof, Darlena Fields, Elizabeth Gaiely, Kelly Boudreaux, Julie Long, Jennifer Helmy, David Meyers,Kim Dudra, Andrea Wayne, Carol Moore, Darrell Robinson, Elizabeth Hewett, Kelly Cross, Julie Ross, Jennifer Hennigan, Meredith Pharr,Kim Koener, Elide Betsill, Carol Warren, Darron Morgan, Elizabeth Jean Short, Kelly Defrench, June Miller, Jennifer King, Pam Romano,Kim Lovello, Gayle Troyer, Barbara G. Cunningham, Dave Byler, Elizabeth Noller, Kelly Godwin, Kaera Davis, Jennifer Little, Mike Scupin,Kim Sexton, Kim Fletter, Carol Willoughby, Dave Jones, Elizabeth Phillips, Kelly Griffiths, Karen Conkon, Jennifer Mcguigan Gilliam, Betsy Shi,Kim Smith, Vickie Poole, Carole Weaver, Dawn Ritzenhouse, Elizabeth Riggs, Kelly Heard, Karen Decker, Jennifer Minter, Jean Short,Kim Whipple, W Robinson, Carolyn Betts, David Braddy, Elsie Joy Spires, Jennifer Kighy, Karen Diamond, Jennifer Moreton Greven, Kimba Wisotsky,Kamberlie T. Peterson, Yolanda Moreland-Johnson, Carolyn Newhouse, David Lanier, Emami Sweman, Kelly Jensen, Karen Eseny, Jennifer Murphy, Ken Craft,Kimberly Cunningham, Stacey Johnson, Carrie Miller, David Rutledge, Emilee J. Durham, Kelly Myers, Karen Ford, Jennifer Parker, Judy Craft,Kimberly Moodie, Anne K. Marchman, Casie Kellogg, David S., Emmanuel Walter, Kelly Turner, Karen Hayne Clabaugh, Jennifer Robinson, Virginia Pickjering,Kimberly Pils, John Engel, Cather ine Benard, David Shadle, Enid Alexander, Kelsey Mc Cullough, Karen Jerez, Jennifer Shuler, Zemouria-Teacher,Kina Mearthur, Kristi Sons, Catherine Davis, David White, Eric Egge, Kemper Smalley, Karen Lindsey, Jennifer Thompson, Julie Farmer ,Kobe Matthews, Marcia Kush, Catherine Oubre, Dawanda Caldwell, Eric Poe, Ken Wilson, Karen Maynard, Jennifer Timberlake, Sabra Rockwell,Kristen Gabrielson, Linda Yucco, Catherine Spee, Dawn Daniels, Eric Jones, Kenneth E. Drawdy, Karen S Higdon, Jennifer Tolar, Thomas Fullard,Kristi Allen, Philip Eam, Cathi Haddon, Dawn Forman, Erik Bradbury, Olu Mccray, Karen Sharpe, Jennifer Tucker, Mary Fullard,Kristi Ford Torbett, Ken Wallace, Cathy Leasher, Dawn Wettschik, Erin Hanna, Padsra O'Dea, Kari Mares, Jennifer Wood, Melba Gant,Kristie Gardner, Jennifer Reed, Cecile Williams, De Fields, Erin Salza, Paige Risley, Karl Schwelm, Jenny Rutledge, Jake Gant,Kristin Hoffman, M. Carrington, Celeste Koshida, Dean Lovello, Erin Thomas, Paige Rutledge, Karyn Reaboner, Jenny Zacharewicz, Grace Gant,Kristin Smith, Manousha Emerald, Selzer Taylor, Debbie Coloney, Erin Woelcher, Pam Hornsby, Catherine Cooper, Jere F. Moore, Paul Godfrey,Kristina Smith, Marcus Bowens, Chad A. Hughey, Debbie Cushing, Felicia Voloschin, Pam Sharman, Katherine Davis, Jeremy King, Fiorella Weaver,Kristine Short, Marcus Valdes, Charlene Henson, Debbie Smith, Fernando Colon, Pamela Edgemon, Katherine Leslie, Jeremy Parks, Theresa Webb,Krysta McCullough, Margaret Kooontz, Charles Garnett, Debbie Staver, Fiorella Weaver, Pamela Erdman, Katherine Ozzorn, Jeremy Spencer, Anne White,Kurt Johnson, Margaret F. Scott, Charles A. Waldrop, Debbie Welchel, Fr. Robert Rn Bagwell, Pamela Spivey, Kathleen Angelucci, Jerry D. Pierce, Juli Wisotsky,L. Mcgee, Margaret Rodgers, Charles E. Hertz, Debbie Whelchel, Frances Fraiser, Pastor Rod Bell Jr., Kathleen Daskel, Jerry Whit, Alex Wisotsky,L. Richard Coulson, Aaron Dukas, Charles Hayes, Debra Tucker, Francine Rossman, Pat Daugherty, Kathleen Lynch, Jesse Padgett, Philip Kinsey,Laury Tillyberry, Anita Glenn, Charles May, Deboeah Emerson, Fred Barker, Pat Nichols, Kathleen Seiter, Jessica Conkey, Debra Kimsey,Lanell Babbage-Torres, Robin Cook, Charles Mcaughy, Deborah Bartlett, Gary West, Pat Thibodeaux, Kathryn Edwards, Jessica Gittins, Trevor Thomas,Lara Molettiere, Karen Cranfield, Cheeka Matthews, Deborah Ferrin, Gail Engehardt, Pat Tippett, Kathryn Romanoff, Jessica Scheufler, Mitchell-Teacher,Larry Lynch, Jackie Castleman, Cheryl Anderson, Deborah Johnson, Gale Grainger, Patricia Boucher, Kathy Hildebrand, Jessica Visintainer, Marissa Lynn,Lashawna Macon, Michael Domy, Cheryl Gallagher, Debra Daugherty, Gary Claxton, Jr., Patricia Earnest, Jackie Jones, Jessica Weis, Tommy Wayne,Laura Barker, Michael Gless, Cheska Cuevas, Debra Gibson, Gary Claxton, Sr., Patricia Farmer, Kathi Romanoff, Jessie J. Fisher, Bonnie Meyers,Laura Duffey, Michael James Jacob, Chris Auger, Debra Turner, Gary Jones, Patricia Hay, Kathy Underhill, Gessie Wilder, Patrick Gilligan,Laura Hammontree, Michael Johnson, Chris Goff, Debra Yeager, Gary Mcbride, Patricia L. Huff, Kathryn Edwards, Jill Edwards, Sheri Gilligan,Laura Lott, Michael Martin, Chris Hill, Debraly Wright, Gay Balentine, Patricia Sanchez, Kathryn Hughes, Jill Williams, Boyce Hayes,Laura Schmeltz, Michael Mepherston, Chris Huff, Dee Stevens, Gayle Braun, Patricia Taff, Katia Dillon, Jim & Lisa Boudoucies, Susan Hayes,Laura Tyrer, Michael Neal, Chris Hurkmans, Deedee Muehlbauer, Gene Webb, Patricia Viellenave, Katie Smith, Jim And Judy Stevenson, James Ferguson,Lauren Sullens, Alison Hutcheson, Chris Kaufman, Del Parker, George Court, Patricia Viellenave, Kati Hanaford, Jim Avitabile, Pam Ferguson,Lauri Garretson, Oscar Pozo, Chris Parmar, Delayne Davis , Virginia Walker, Patricia W. Daugherty, Kaufman Beth, Jim Hubbard, Dani Swope,Laurie Brown, Shelley Kunkel, Chris Ricciardi, Deloris Jenkins, Gerald Cook, Patrick Bunning, Gay Godwin, Jim Lawton, Judy Hall,Laurie Gilmore, Alaina K Rolader, Christal Threadgill, Denise Beall, Gerald Edwards, Patrick Simmons, Kaye Berg, Jim Spencer, Tiffany Bennett,Laurie Grizzard, Allen Kush, Christal Kidd, Denise Owen, GERALYN DANIEL, Patsy Pollard, Keith Gates, Jo Ann Latham, Bill Walker,Laurie Savoy, Melissa Sims, Christian Belena, Denise Segell, Gina Ashley, Patty Kaminski, Keith Moore, Joan C. Beatenbough, Paul Pickjering,Laurin Makohon, Melissa Smalley, Christian Churchuell, Dennis Gronka, Gina Bedard, Paul Wiegell, Robert Spee, Joan Rhoden, Amy Little,Lawrence Perkins, Melissa Stroup, Christiani Avitabile, Dennis J. Smith, Gina Vernola, Paul Bauer, Roberta F. Rodgers, Joann Rasorr, Brian Sloan,Lera Howe, Melissa Weir, Christiani Avitabile, Dennis Spielman, Ginger Battles, Paul Floroyance, Robin Cade, Joanne Hintze, Petterson-Teacher,Leah M Kenny, Meredith D. Trawick, Christie Wycoff, Dennis Williams, Ginger Falter, Paul Poe, Robin Clary, Joanne Lee, Kelley Ceballos,Leah Neadblake, Meredith Hilliard, Christina F. Owen, Desire' Stokes, Ginger Howard, Paul Smith, Robin Overbye, Joanne Lewis, Burton J. Berridge,Leann Claxton, Meri Bell, Christine Boyde, Diane Adams, Ginnie Pajak, Paul Tidwell, Robin Perfe, Jocelyn Floroyance, Rossalind Page,Teresa Petty, Meredith Fitzhenry, Christine Greene, Diane Cook, Glenn Grimm, Paula Westbrook, Robyn Parmer, Jody Carroll, Sonja Gaither,Teri Sasseville, Michal el Mercier, Christopher Fitzsimmons, Diane Enns Hooper, Gloria Burns, Penny Phagan, Rochelle Faalocci, Jodi Garrett, Anzhela Maksimenko,Terri Green, Michael Crider, Christy Jackson, Diane Guffin, Gloria J Lashley, Penny Vaughn, Rochelle Robinson, Judy Hice, Barbara Leonard,Terry Ledoux, Lucien Gutting, Chuck Jones , Diane Holmes, Gloriby Gigi Garcia, Pete Stevens, Ronald Dasher, Joe Kuppe, Bella Ciotti,Terri Millwood, Luke Petrett, Ciera Montalbo, Diane Long, Greg Mcbride, Peter Elizalde, Ronette S. Declercq, John Allen, Bob Mills,Terri Thomas, Lutrelle Greene, Lee Bradford, Maria Rigby, Michele A Ralston, Peter Ludwinski, Ronnie Murphy, Sonya Black, Bohdan Zachary,Terry Walker, Lynda Dunaway, Lee Bradley, Marietta Pritchett, Michele Bradford, Phil Holleman, Rosario Gonzale, Stacey P-Clam, Laura Nelson,Terry Priest, Lynda Edwards, Lee Elliott, Marilyn Dunn, Michele Ralston, Phil Holleman, Rose Browning, Stacey Crayton, Laura Tyrer,Terry Geiger, Lynde Yeager, Leean Missatt, Marilyn Mccranie, Michell Brown, Philip Fraiser, Rosemary Risse, Stacey Henzy, Lisa Crowe,Terry Leach, Lynda Ruchel, Leigh Anne Bjerregaard, Mario Torres, Michelle Bradley, Philip Jameson, Ross Petrowsky, Stacey Lennox, Lori Magness,Thaddeus J Melko Iii, Lynn Floyd, Joyce Yung, DeeDee Hice, Joy Deal, Sonya Black, Leilani Wood , Marjorie Clements, Michelle Halko, Phillip Harris, Roxe Hurley, Stella Indya, Jim Anderson,Theresa Dodd, Lynn Ginn, Leo Smith, Marjorie Peters, Michelle Mungin, Phillip McCurdy, Russ Kendall, Steph May, Linda Anderson,Therese M. Roman, Lynne Mcgee, Leslie Banchi, Mark E. Smith, Michelle Pitts, Phyllis Branson, Ruth R. Martin, Ph. D., Stephanie Broome, Jill Murphy,Thomas B Martin, Nancy Currie, Leslie Mcpherson, Mark Powers, Michelle Schultz, Phyllis Whelan, Ruth Woods, Stephani S. Starfield, Angela Evans,Tiana Hill, Nancy Gordeuk, Libby Wagoner, Mark Schrader, Michelle Smith, Priscilla Savoy, Sal Serio, Stephani Satterfield, Angie ,Tiffany Curtin, Nancy Gunter, Lidia Zaly, Martha Caceres, Michelle Villars, Priscila Savoy, Sally Caesar, Stephanie Carnes, Ann Feldman,Tiffani Jones, Nancy Holland, Linda Broeking, Martin Roberts, MichelleRoberts, R. Llan, Sally Cange, Stephanie Coop, Anna Fishel,Tiffany Curtin, Nancy Kohl, Linda Chaffin, Mary King, Mike Coley, Rachel Kennel, Rn, Sam Coley, Stephanie Denard, Anne Hackney,Tiffany Sorrentino, Nancy Lanier, Linda Ferguson, Mary Ann Allen, Mike Hayter, Rachel Lawson, Sam Sahawneh, Stephanie Gardner, John Thomas Sholota Jr.,Tim Montanaro, Nancy Miller, Linda Johnson, Mary Carzoli, Mike Marchman, Rachel Massie, Samantha Coley, Stephanie Huneycutt, Karyn Boothe,Tim Shuler, Nancy Treadway, Linda Johnson, Mary Elizabeth Dearing, Mike Scupin, Rachel Parks, Samantha Mitchell, Stephanie Martin, Kathryn S Williams,Timmy Shuler, Natacha Morales, Linda Lash, Mary Evelyn Ware, Mike Shaver, Rachel Ray, Samantha Redwine, Stephanie Ulrich, Kimberlie T. Peterson,Timothy J. Vorel, Natalie Eades, Linda Manion, Mary Hayes, Mindy Allen, Rachel Summerville, Samuel Fletcher, Stephanie Wilson-Bynum, Belinda K Whirley,Timothy Thornton, Nathan A. Nale, Linda Mccutcheon, Mary Jo Patterson, Ming Ligan, Rachel Wartes, Sandi Fletcher, Stephanie Tentigo, Davis Mett,Tina Johnson, Sheila Knowles, Linda Parker, Mary Kay Bacalho, Mischle Dleyh, Radley Edwards, Sandra Burroughs, Stephen Murosky, David Kirby,Tish Strange, Sheila Mccutcheon, Linda Reynolds, Mary L Davis, Misti Moffat, RafaL.Majerek@Uj.Edu.Pl, Sandra Ellerbe, Steve Gratzner, Brian Wentz ,Todd Bianchi, Sheila Mccutcheon, Linda Webb, Mary Leasure, Misty Perkins, Randy Blosser, Sandra Johnston, Steve Ramey, Buffy Lacy,Todd Clark, Shelley Figherch, Lisa A. Harris, Mary Lou Mays Anglin, Mitzi Fountain , Ray Greene, Sandra M Romero, Steve Sexton, Carolina Pozo,Todd Garretson, on, William King, Lisa Bilz, Mary Martinez, Gmille Neal, Ray Yeager, Sandra Ray, Steven Pumel, Charles Odom,Todd Wilkerson, William Seiter, Lisa Childs, Mary Pat Campbell, Clark Neal, Rn Rundbacken, Sandra S. Bates, Steven Pumel, Christina Owen,Todd Zaly, Xuhsvztpyev@gMail.Com, Lisa Davis, Mary Pat Roche, Molly Pulliam, Rebecca Doyle, Sandy Murray, Sue Winfree, Mari Lair,Tom Evans, Yesica Moreno, Lisa Enos, Mary Reynolds, Monica Satcher, Rebecca Johnson, Sandy Tilton, Susan A. Feathers, Max Shirkey,Tom Shaw, Yeun-Cheng Tai, Lisa Hellier, Mary Rich, Monica Barnette, Rebecca Parrott, Sara Bouman, Susan Archer, Melanie Garner,Tommy Gentry, Zach Rubin, Lisa Hyland, Mary Siby, Monica Goldsmith, Rebecca Petersen, Sara Neeley, Susan B Elliott, Melissa Johnson,Toni Crawford, Robert Fraser, Lisa Lewis, Mary Ware, Monica Hayes, Regina Duffield, Sara Salsbury, Susan Bender, Phil Mcdade,Toni Hillebrand, Robert Godwin, Lisa Matthews, Mary Williamson, Monique Wiley, Rena Poe, Sarah Bentley, Susan Bonas, Rebecca T. Mcdade, Tony Mimms, Robert Heckethorn, Lisa Rozor, Marianne Helms, Mr. Julian Kimbell, Rene Stover, Sarah Carleton, Susan Chesnut, Nancy Nelson,Tonya Jackson, Robert Mealister, Lisa Shaw, Mary Kay Riddley, Mr. O. J. Brittingham, Iii, Renee Dixon, Sarah Crupi, Susan Hill, Deborah Curlette,Tonya Jennings, Shelley Landry, Lisa Stumpf, Matt Matthews, Mr. Scott Hoag, Rhonda Beal Cox, Scott Beaumont, Susan L. Greco, Deborah R Miller,Tonya Stanfield, Shelley Morris, Liz Myrick, Matt Palmer, Mrs Carol A Manasco, Rhonda Hill, Scott Carlson, Susan Robinson, Eileen Baker,Tonya Toney, Shelly Mereness, Liza Jackson, Matt Pritchett, Mrs. Anna Wall, Rhonda M Coffin, Scottie Schaeffer, Susan Sanders, Evelyn Martinez,Tracey Spruell, Sherena Arrington, Lizette Cruz, Matthew Phillips , Mrs. Fran Fowler, Ricardo Moreno, Sean Cain, Susan Stanton, Gerald Kotyuk,Tracy Bracken, Sheri Bryce, Lonnie Smith, Matthew Mcdaris, Mrs. Julian Kimbell, Rich Thompson, Shana Stull, Susan T Davis, Steve Crowe,Tracy Mcpherson, Tami L. Eighard, Lonny Lovelace, Matthew Surenko, Mrs. O. J. Brittingham, Iii, Richard Crego, Shane Arrenaale, Susan Winfree, Tiffany Gee,Tracy Neptune, Tammy Hendlen, Loralee Davis, Matthew Thompson, Mrs. Patty Palmquist, Richard Ferris, Shane Ad Sonja Gaither, Susie Ray, Tiffany Hanson,Treyvion Wise, Tammy Jay, Loretta D Grecco, Matthew Travis Martin, Mrs. Scott Hoag, Richie Henke, Shanlana Brooks, Suzanne Allen, Tiffany Padgett, Ty Cantrell , Tammy Maglovsky, Lori Kieter, Matthew Z. Steinberg, Muna Phometzi, Rick Jensen, Shanna Floyd, Suzanne Allen, Wendy Geneveux,Tyler Jones, Tammy Slaten, Lori Allen, Mattie Justice, Myia Ledfore, Rick Harper, Shannon Hyde, Suzanne H Watkins, Art Geneaux,Thayer Jones, Tanya Ditty, Lori Barrett, Maynoel Arana, Myia Smith, Rick Jackson, Shannon Sheppard, Suzanne Zimmermann, Kimberly Oglesha,Tyson Van Lannen, Tanya Peters, Lori Blackmon, Meg Norris, Myra Elliott, Rick O'Neal,Shanon Cornell, Sydney Bond, Christina Renee Kade U.D. Roberts, Tanya Smith, Lori Fox, Meghan Egger, Myrian Baker, Rick Postell, Shari Bell, Sylvia Selitto, Christy Spivey,Vanessa Knight, Tara Barnett, Lori Pritchett, Melissa Canady, Mzogkicme@gmail.com, Riley Neely, Shari Bell, T. Lecroy, Ciera Eisenbesh,Velma M. Hoeksma, Tara Mclain, Lori Yerkes, Melissa Cecchi, N. Mccarty, Rita Knight, Shari Netzley, Tadd Hutcheson, David B. Claude,Veronica Burnham, Janet Hunt, Lorraine Jones, Melissa Isakson, Nancy Sover, Ritchie Bakes, Sharon Lee, Talullah, Dawn Berg,Vesta Smith, Jason Robinson, Louise Henry, Ph.D., Melissa Millikan, Nancy Baldwin, Rob Adkerson, Shawn Baulz, Tamara Djurgis, Rebekah Andrews,Vicki Ferris, Jazmine Anderson, Lova Agofin, Melissa Oswald, Sherri Smith, Rob Mardle, Sheila Combee, Tamera Lewis, Renrav V Vicki Verego, Wendy Martin, Pat Tippit, Marcus Brazell, Warren Goldsmith, Wanda Robinson, Walter L. Erickson, Wendy Marcum, Rita L. Ward,Victor Delisle, W. Richard Gruetter, Greg Brown, Millie S.Perry, Warren Mundy, Jr., Wanda Suggo, Griffin Shirley, Wayne L. Bakotic, Ronald Cox

RNC RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMON CORE EDUCATION STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of academic standards, promoted and supported by two private membership organizations, the National Governor’s Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) as a method for conforming American students to uniform (“one size fits all”) achievement goals to make them more competitive in a global marketplace, (1.) and

WHEREAS, the NGA and the CCSSO, **received tens of millions of dollars from private third parties to advocate for and develop the CCSS strategy, subsequently created the CCSS through a process that was not subject to any freedom of information acts or other sunshine laws, and never piloted the CCSS, and**

WHEREAS, even though Federal Law prohibits the federalizing of curriculum (2.), the Obama Administration accepted the CCSS plan and used 2009 Stimulus Bill money to reward the states that were most committed to the president’s CCSS agenda; but, they failed to give states, their legislatures and their citizens time to evaluate the CCSS before having to commit to them, and

WHEREAS, the NGA and CCSSO in concert with the same corporations developing the CCSS ‘assessments’ have created new textbooks, digital media and other teaching materials aligned to the standards which must be purchased and adopted by local school districts in order that students may effectively compete on CCSS ‘assessments’, and

WHEREAS, the CCSS program includes federally funded testing and the collection and sharing of massive amounts of personal student and teacher data, and

WHEREAS, the CCSS effectively removes educational choice and competition since all schools and all districts must use Common Core ‘assessments’ based on the Common Core standards to allow all students to advance in the school system and to advance to higher education pursuits; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Republican National Committee, as stated in the 2012 Republican Party Platform, “do not believe in a one size fits all approach to education and support providing broad education choices to parents and children at the State and local level,” (p35)(3.), which is best based on a free market approach to education for students to achieve individual excellence; and, be it further

RESOLVED, the Republican National Committee recognizes the CCSS for what it is– an inappropriate overreach to standardize and control the education of our children so they will conform to a preconceived “normal,” and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Republican National Committee rejects the collection of personal student data for any non-educational purpose without the prior written consent of an adult student or a child student’s parent and that it rejects the sharing of such personal data, without the prior written consent of an adult student or a child student’s parent, with any person or entity other than schools or education agencies within the state, and be it finally

RESOLVED, the 2012 Republican Party Platform specifically states the need to repeal the numerous federal regulations which interfere with State and local control of public schools, (p36) (3.); and therefore, the Republican National Committee rejects this CCSS plan which creates and fits the country with a nationwide straitjacket on academic freedom and achievement.

GAGOP Resolution 7: Opposing Common Core

June 22, 2013

Resolution Opposing “Nationalized” Common Core Standards; Opposing PARCC Testing; Protecting Student Privacy; and Commending the Governor’s Executive Order

WHEREAS, the control of education is left to the States and the people and is not an enumerated power of Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 Georgia Executive Branch officials committed this state to adopting common standards with a consortium of states through the Race to the Top grant created by the federal Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, this participation required Georgia to adopt common standards in K-12 English language arts and mathematics (now known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative) and to commit to implementing the aligned assessments developed by a consortium of states with federal money, all without the consent of the people exercised through their Legislative Branch despite the fact that the people fund K-12 education with over \$13 billion in state and local taxes each year; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards have been evaluated by educational experts and were determined to be no better than Georgia’s previous performance standards and according to key members of the Validation Committee, the standards were even inferior; and

WHEREAS, adoption of Common Core obliterates Georgia’s constitutional autonomy over the educational standards for Georgia’s children in English language arts and mathematics because 100 percent of the Common Core standards must be delivered through Georgia’s curriculum, yet the standards belong to unaccountable private interests in Washington, D.C. Which have copyright authority and do not allow any standards to be deleted or changed, but only allow Georgia to add 15 percent to those standards; and

WHEREAS, this push to nationalize standards will inevitably lead to more centralization of education in violation of federalism and local control and violates the spirit, if not the letter, of three federal laws; and

WHEREAS, both the Common Core standards and the PARCC tests will create new tax burdens to pay for enormous unfunded mandates on our state and our local school districts; and

WHEREAS, the Race to the Top grant conditions require the collection and sharing of massive amounts of student-level data through the PARCC agreement which violates student privacy;

THEREFORE the Georgia Republican Party delegates to the 2013 Convention resolve that state leaders should:

- Withdraw Georgia from the Common Core State Standards Initiative;
- Withdraw Georgia from the PARCC consortium and its planned assessments for Georgia’s students, and any other testing aligned with the Common Core standards;
- Prohibit all state officials from entering into any agreements that cede any measure of control over Georgia education to entities outside the state and ensure that all content standards as well as curriculum decisions supporting those standards are adopted through a transparent statewide and/or local process fully accountable to the citizens in every school district of Georgia; and
- Prohibit the collection, tracking, and sharing of personally identifiable student and teacher data except with schools or educational agencies within the state.

Be it further resolved that we appreciate Governor Nathan Deal’s principled Executive Order issued on May 15th which strongly recognized the need to honor the constitutional sovereignty of the people of Georgia over education and the urgent need to protect student privacy.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEORGIA REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY PASSES
RESOLUTION OPPOSING COMMON CORE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA, February 27, 2013 - "The membership of the Georgia Republican Assembly unanimously voted to pass the following resolution regarding the Common Core curriculum", said GRA President Julianne Thompson.

She continued, "This national curriculum will not only result in significantly lowered educational standards, but will erode local and parental control over children's educations. The power to educate our children is not granted to the federal government by the United States Constitution, and we strongly call on our legislators and our Governor to reject any policies or procedures based on the Common Core Standards Initiative."

GEORGIA REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OPPOSING
COMMON CORE

WHEREAS, high student performance and closing the achievement gap is fundamentally linked to an overall reform of our public education system through a strong system of accountability and transparency built on state standards; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the education of each child of this nation primarily lies with parents, supported by locally elected school boards and state governments; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 and 2010, the State was offered the chance to compete for education funding through the "Race to the Top" program created by the U. S. Department of Education ("ED"); and

WHEREAS, the only way to achieve a score in the competition sufficient to qualify for funding was to agree to "participation in a consortium of States that ... [i]s working toward jointly developing and adopting a common set of K-12 standards..."; and

WHEREAS, the only such "common set of K-12 standards" existent at that time, or since, is known as the Common Core State Standards Initiative ("CCSSI") and was developed without a grant of authority from any state; and

WHEREAS, the CCSSI standards were released in June 2010, and to meet the ED "Race to the Top" requirements the State had only 60 days to evaluate them and agree to adopt them; and

WHEREAS, local education officials, school leaders, teachers, and parents were not included in the discussion, evaluation and preparation of the CCSSI standards that would affect students in this state; and

WHEREAS, citizens had no opportunity to review and comment on the final version of CCSSI standards, and states were not offered an option to modify those standards before their adoption; and

WHEREAS, no empirical evidence indicates that centralized education standards result in higher student achievement; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the CCSSI standards would force several states to lower the rigor and quality of their standards; and

WHEREAS, the National Assessment of Educational Progress national test already exists and allows comparisons of academic achievement to be made across the states, without the necessity of imposing national standards, curricula, or assessments; and

WHEREAS, imposing a set of national standards is likely to lead to the imposition of a national curriculum and national assessment upon the various states, in violation of the General Education Provisions Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; and the Department of Education Organization Act and

WHEREAS, claims from the Common Core Initiative that the CCSSI standards will not dictate what teachers teach in the classroom are refuted by language in the standards as written; and

WHEREAS, common standards will lessen the ability for local stakeholders to innovate and continue to make improvements over time; and

WHEREAS, when no less than 22 states face budget shortfalls and Race to the Top funding for states is limited, \$350 million for consortia to develop new assessments aligned with the CCSSI standards will not cover the entire cost of overhauling state accountability systems, which includes implementation of standards and testing and associated professional development and curriculum restructuring; and

WHEREAS, special interest groups can manipulate the vulnerability of the centralized decision making that governs common standards and lower the standards' rigor and quality over time to suit their priorities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the GEORGIA REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY calls upon the State of Georgia to reject any policies and procedures that would be incumbent on the state based on the Common Core State Standards Initiative.