

Cooper, Kathy

From: ContactForm@state.pa.us
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:24 PM
To: Help
Subject: IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

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Subject: IRRC no.2976 Common Core

Message:

First, I am a parent of 3 school aged children. I am also the Grassroots Coordinator for FreedomWorks. We have a 130,000 activists in Pennsylvania. It was because of the emails and phone calls that FreedomWorks received, we decided to get involved in the fight against Common Core. Upon further investigation, it is clear that Common Core has serious problems. I have spent countless hours investigating where Common Core originated, who is funding it, and what the data collection means for the privacy of our kids. I have concluded that not only is Pa Common Core a financial disaster for Pennsylvania, it is also a disaster for our kids. First, nothing is in place to protect our kids from the data that is being collected as part of Race To The Top grant money requiring The State Longitudinal Data Base System (SLSD). The FERPA Law was gutted in 2011 through a regulation essentially leaving no protection for students privacy. The change permits disclosures of student record to school officials with legitimate interested. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests defined as follows: A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official may also include a volunteer or contractor outside of school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-02/pdf/2011-30683.pdf> I have read the above regulation and conclude that the FERPA Law no longer protects my children. The State Longitudinal Data Base System (SLSD) is intrusive and the data can be shared with 3rd parties as clearly stated in the FERPA regulation changes in 2011. This is not in the best interest of my children and all of the children of Pennsylvania. My second concern is CH.4 regulation was passed without a fiscal note. We as taxpayers need to know how much the adaption of Pa Common Core will cost. It is irresponsible for Pennsylvania government to pass a regulation

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without knowing how much it will cost. The Pioneer Institute, a think tank, published that “ Common Core will require as a very expensive gamble. The one-year cost of new technology, instructional materials and teacher professional development is estimated at \$10.5 billion for the 45 states and the District of Columbia, which have adopted the standards. With ongoing expenses, the cost is expected to rise to about \$16 billion. “ Pennsylvania got roughly 45 million dollars in Race To The Top funding for a program that is estimated to cost 16 billion! The taxpayers of Pennsylvania cannot afford this. We have exploding pension costs and deficit problems. People are getting taxed out of their houses due to exploding property taxes. You can see the report here: <http://pioneerinstitute.org/featured/new-research-on-common-core-damaging-state-local-school-autonomy/> My third reason PA Core Curriculum Chapter 4 regulations should not be implemented is due to loss of control local school districts will have over the curriculum. The Keystones will force districts to use curriculum that is aligned to the tests. Schools will have to teach math, language arts and social studies all the same way. This cannot be denied. So much time will be spent testing our kids instead of teaching our kids. Commissioners, please deny the Chapter 4 regulations PA Common Core. Respectfully, Anastasia Przybylski Mother of 3 and FreedomWorks Coordinator