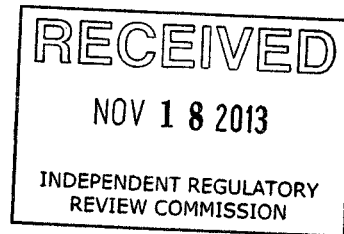


From: Lawrence Borland <blckrose@pitt.edu>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 4:22 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: pclymer@pahousegop.com; Governor@pa.gov; Eli Evankovich
Subject: Q at IRRC Board Mtg 11/21/13 on #2976

No. 2976 State Board of Education #6-326: Academic Standards and Assessment

IRRC Board Mtg on November 21st, 2013



Q: What is the technology cost of implementation and maintenance for Common Core testing?

My Background:

I am an elected school board director for Franklin Regional School District in Westmoreland Co.

I am also a full time professor at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, Departments of Anesthesiology and Pediatrics.

Common Core Curriculum or the PA equivalent is bad for PA for many, many reasons. I will focus on one of the many aspects which will increase the property tax of Pennsylvania home owners.

Presentation and discussion of cost of Common Core implementation and maintenance has constantly been met with the answer: "it's not known"; and therefore is passed over with the expectation that the public will assume that there is NO additional expense.

This is not true.

Because of the rapidly shifting use of technology, many school districts have initiated BYOD (Bring your own device) projects. On campus use of student supplied devices; ie, laptops, iPad (or similar), iPhones (or similar smart phones) represents a substantial shift in the Technology Plan/support of public school districts. School boards have arrived at the conclusion that the implementation of robust/high capacity networks including secure Internet access are a solution to the never-ending upgrade and expansion cycle of fixed student computer laboratories.

This shift is/was a glimmer of hope to modulate the constantly increasing cost of technology and infrastructure (rooms, desks, etc).

The implementation of Common Core and the required standardized (national) testing is counter to this!

Testing standards include rigid and expensive implementation of computer labs with current and standardized cpu's and software and security systems in order to prevent cheating, etc.

Testing of core subjects at fixed dates and times also places an enormous requirement on the # of CPU's necessary for such testing. Testing cannot be spread out over any reasonable period of time but rather be administered simultaneously (again to prevent Q/A transfer -- cheating).

The end result is an obvious requirement for both expanded computer classrooms and standardized equipment way beyond that in existence in any public school at present.

BYOD implementation is a logical extension (and cost savings) of the explosion of student (family) owned devices.

Mandate for fixed networks on standardized (system-owned) devices is both a maintenance and expansion of infrastructure (cpu & classroom) that is ill affordable by our home owners.

My question for the IRRC: What is the cost (perhaps on some unit basis such as "per 100 students" for the technology implementation and maintenance?

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