

Resolution Opposing Common Core State Standards

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3 **WHEREAS** the copyrighted (and therefore unchangeable) Common Core State
4 Standards (CCSS) are a set of controversial top-down K-12 academic standards that
5 were promulgated by wealthy private interests without research-based evidence of
6 validity and are developmentally inappropriate in the lowest grades;

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8 **WHEREAS**, as a means of avoiding the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment
9 prohibition against federal involvement in state education policy, two unaccountable
10 private trade associations--the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council
11 of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)--have received millions of dollars in funding
12 from the Gates Foundation and others to create the CCSS;

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14 **WHEREAS** we are in favor of standards, in particular the former Washington State
15 standards set by educators, parents and students;

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17 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Department of Education pressured state legislatures into adopting
18 the Common Core State Standards and high-stakes standardized testing based on them
19 as a condition of competing for federal Race to the Top (RTTT) stimulus funds that
20 should have been based on need;

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22 **WHEREAS** as a result of Washington State Senate Bill 6669, which passed the State
23 legislature on March 11, 2010, the Office of the Superintendent of Instruction (OSPI)
24 adopted Common Core State Standards (CCSS) on July 20, 2011;

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26 **WHEREAS** this adoption effectively transfers control over public school standardized
27 testing from locally elected school boards to the unaccountable corporate interests that
28 control the CCSS and who stand to profit substantially;

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30 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Constitution also calls for public education to be
31 controlled by the State of Washington through our elected State legislature, our elected
32 State Superintendent of Public Instruction and our elected local school boards;

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34 **WHEREAS** plans for implementation of CCSS assessments in K-12 will result in private
35 student data being transmitted to and stored by private corporations;

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37 **WHEREAS** implementation of CCSS will cost local school districts hundreds of millions
38 of dollars to pay for standardized computer-based tests, new technology, new curricula
39 and teacher training at a time when Washington is already insufficiently funding K-12
40 Basic Education without proven benefit to students; and
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42 **WHEREAS** for these and other reasons, some states have already withdrawn from
43 CCSS;

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45 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we Democrats call upon the Washington State
46 legislature and the Superintendent of Public Instruction to withdraw from the CCSS
47 and keep K-12 education student-centered and accountable to the people of Washington
48 State.

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51 Submitted by 32nd LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 1/15/2015)

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53 Given no recommendation by the Resolutions Committee at their January 24, 2015
54 Meeting in Olympia.

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56 Passed by the WSDCC at their January 24, 2015 Meeting in Olympia.