



The Strange Bedfellows Common Core Can Make

CABL Commentary

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The governor's recent change-of-mind on the Common Core academic standards has some curious aspects to it that seem to be worth noting. One is the unusual bedfellows that have arisen out of it all.

"When we embarked on this path of reform, we knew this would not be an easy fight because the coalition of the status quo is entrenched and has worked to hold Louisiana teachers and students back for decades."

That's governor Jindal a couple of years ago when the "coalition for the status quo" was fighting against virtually all of his key education reforms. Who was in that coalition? Primarily it was the teacher unions and the school boards. The ones, he said, that have "worked to hold Louisiana teachers and students back for decades."

Which makes you wonder, have they all of a sudden changed their tune? Have they flip-flopped and are now on the side of reform?

It's worth asking because they are now the ones the governor has aligned himself with as he tries to move Louisiana out of the Common Core standards and appropriate nationally-comparable student testing. At his recent news conference announcing that move, he cited a teacher union survey suggesting a majority of union teachers are dissatisfied with the new higher standards. Really? Teacher union members are against something new or different? That's a big surprise.

Then there's the fact that in seeking to pull out of Common Core, the governor has asked BESE to come up with what he called a "Plan B." So a few of them have. Led by two BESE members who have long been aligned with the unions and the school boards – the coalition of the status quo – they've asked that BESE consider this "Plan B" at a special meeting early next week. And speaking of the school boards, they were quick to jump right in and show their support for "Plan B," as well.

So just what is this new "Plan B?" To go back to our old LEAP tests. Now, that's truly the definition of the status quo!