



Louisiana Association
OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



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State Business, Civic & Education Advocacy Groups Say “No Political Deals” When it Comes to Common Core

There is considerable discussion around the Capitol about legislative efforts to work out a “deal” with regard to legislation involving Louisiana’s Common Core academic standards.

The business and civic groups signing on to this statement wish to make it unequivocally clear that when it comes to compromises that would scrap or delay implementation of Common Core standards in Louisiana or their associated student assessments, we say “no deal.”

BESE has already approved a compromise by agreeing to a two-year delay of any accountability consequences for students, teachers, schools or districts as a result of Common Core implementation.

What that means practically is that no student will be required to be held back if they perform poorly on tests, teacher evaluations will not be adversely impacted through the first two years of full implementation of Common Core, and school letter grades will effectively remain unchanged.

In addition it should be pointed out that Louisiana has already taken a very deliberate and measured approach to implementation of Common Core. The Common Core concepts were first introduced to students during the 2012-13 school year. They are being fully taught now in 2013-14, though students continue to take the same tests they were – LEAP, iLEAP and ACT. Testing using the high-quality PARCC assessment won’t begin until the spring of 2015, and even then, there will be no consequences. Results will only be used to establish a baseline for future benchmarking. Complete implementation does not begin until the 2015-2016 school year.

This timeline represents the compromises that have already been made. There is no need for legislators to make any more “deals” with unions and associations of school boards, superintendents and narrow political interests who have made it clear through their support of various bills that their true desire is to scrap Common Core altogether; create a new set of standards that say nothing about rigorous content, international benchmarking or expert validation; and create student assessments that will not show us how students, schools or districts perform compared to their peers in other states.

Since their goals are simply to put a fence around Louisiana, hold our students back and further delay a process that has already allowed for delays, there are no “deals” to be made. We challenge our state leaders to stand up for the children of Louisiana and step away from the politics of the adults.

There is no room for making “deals” that will compromise the education of our students. We will not delay their chance to compete nationally and globally for the opportunities that will offer them the prosperous and successful future they deserve. We hope our legislators won’t delay that chance either.

Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Black Alliance for Educational Options
Bollinger Shipyards
Blueprint Louisiana
Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce
Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans
Committee of 100
Council for A Better Louisiana
Educate Now!
Education’s Next Horizon
ExxonMobil
Fleur de Lis New Orleans Cuisine, LLC
GNO, Inc.
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
ISC Constructors, LLC

Jefferson Business Council
La Coste Consulting, LLC
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry
Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools
Louisiana Association of Science Leaders
Louisiana Association of Teachers of
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