



Action Items for Senate “Education Reform” Bill 419

1. Legislative Audit Council federal compliance cost analysis amendment

USPIE endeavors to return local, parental and community control of education. This starts with eliminating all federal education mandates achieved by federal legislation and/or by states refusing federal funding. South Carolina only receives 10% of its education budget from federal sources but the federal government controls South Carolina classrooms. To facilitate a return to local control of education, the South Carolina Senate should require the Legislative Audit Council to conduct a cost analysis for compliance with federal education mandates over time. This amendment passed the House.

2. New ELA and Math Standards to eliminate Common Core amendment

USPIE recommends the replacement of the South Carolina (Common Core-aligned) College and Career Ready Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math with proven effective standards and assessments that are grounded in a developmentally appropriate approach to education. With an amendment to S.419, new standards will be written to align with an assessment that has a wide, solid, and long-standing reputation: the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, which is taken by a large number of students both nationally and internationally, is well-attested, and has existed since 1935. The starting framework for the new standards will be the proven-effective pre-Common Core Massachusetts standards, which when measured by state specific performance on the international level, scored among the top performing countries in reading, science and math. This amendment will repeal Common Core. Senators Climer, Rice and Grooms have this amendment but needed to be influenced to move on it and other senators need to be influenced to support it.

3. Eliminate Zero to Twenty Committee functions

USPIE opposes Senate Bill 419 as it reinforces and doubles down on the workforce development model for education driven by the federal government. This failed education model is focused on massive data collection of children from birth into adulthood. House bill (H.3759) rebrands the Zero-to-Twenty Committee as the “Special Council on Revitalizing Education,” keeping all functions the same. The proposed committee is designed to share data silos in order to track children from before birth through adulthood. A Senate subcommittee amendment strikes the Zero-to-Twenty Committee section, but moves its functions to the Department of Education.

4. Strike the Competency-based Education section of the bill

Common Core was only a forerunner to Competency-based Education (CBE): the latest national/global education fad. CBE was added to SC House bill H. 3759. CBE embeds online, adaptive assessments in everyday learning, undermining children’s privacy and eliminating a parent’s opportunity to opt out of testing. The entirely computer-based CBE curriculum eliminates the need for a teacher. Teachers are relegated to mere facilitators/babysitters.

5. Elect State Board of Education

In order to restore local, parental, and community control of education, there has to be more direct accountability to parents, teachers and taxpayers of South Carolina for education policy decisions. A fundamental step toward restoring local control and accountability to education stakeholders is to elect the State Board of Education (*this will require separate legislation for voters to decide to amend the state constitution*).

Visit uspie.org and join the movement to Stop Fed Ed!

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