

## The Republican Party



### **RESOLUTION OPPOSING COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**

**WHEREAS**, in 2010 officials in South Carolina's Executive Branch committed South Carolina to participation in the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS) through the federal Race to the Top grant application; and

**WHEREAS**, such participation required South Carolina to adopt the Common Core standards in K-12 English language arts and mathematics, and to commit to implementing the national SMARTER Balanced (SBAC) assessments, all without legislative oversight and meaningful public input;

**WHEREAS**, the Common Core standards and the SBAC assessments were adopted without appropriate pilot studies to measure their efficacy;

**WHEREAS**, the Common Core standards have been judged by independent experts to be insufficient and ultimately injurious to the task of delivering high quality education to South Carolina students;

**WHEREAS**, both the Common Core standards and the SBAC tests represent a costly unfunded mandate on South Carolina and local school districts;

**WHEREAS**, although Federal Law prohibits the federalizing of curriculum, the Obama Administration accepted the Common Core State Standards plan and used 2009 Stimulus Bill money to reward states that committed to the President's Common Core agenda; but, they failed to give states, their legislatures and their citizens time to evaluate Common Core before demanding commitment to them;

**WHEREAS**, the Common Core standards are fairly judged as a precursor to and, by way of Federal education grants, a roundabout means of federalizing curriculum;

**WHEREAS**, adoption of Common Core denies the People of South Carolina choice in determining English language arts and mathematics curricula for South Carolina students, yielding such authority to the federal government and outside interests; and

**WHEREAS**, the Republican National Committee, as stated in the 2012 Republican Party Platform, "do[es] not believe in a one size fits all approach to education and supports providing broad education choices to parents and children at the State and local level," (Renewing American Values to Build Healthy Families, Great Schools and Safe Neighborhoods, p.35), which is best based on a free market approach to education for students to achieve individual excellence.

**THEREFORE**, the York County Republican Party hereby resolves that South Carolina leaders should:

- Withdraw South Carolina from the Common Core State Standards Initiative;
- Withdraw South Carolina from the SBAC assessment scheme, and any other testing aligned with the Common Core standards;
- Prohibit all state officials from entering into any agreement that cedes any measure of control over South Carolina education to entities outside the state and ensure that all content standards and curriculum decisions are adopted through a transparent state-wide process fully accountable to the citizens of South Carolina; and
- Prohibit the collection of personal student data for any non-educational purpose, and share only relevant academic data with schools or education agencies within the state.