

Fields marked with a \* are required.

**First Name** \*Bret

**Last Name** \*McCoy

**What office and district are you running for?** \*State Senate District 15

**City** \*Evanston

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**1. Are you familiar with the Common Core State Standards and how it is affecting education in our state?**

- It's new to me, but I will learn more.
- A working knowledge and NOT in favor of it.
- A working knowledge and in favor of it.
- Other

#### **Comments**

CCSS is not a curriculum. It is a standard of education that districts and teachers can choose how to implement.

**2. Would you consider sponsoring legislative remedies in the upcoming legislative session that would include a total removal of Common Core in Wyoming and mandating state-created standards of higher quality?**

- Yes
- No
- Other

#### **Comments**

I fully support the CCSS, NGSS, and CCRS. As an instructor myself, I have seen the standards and they are not unreasonable.

**3. Do you believe the budget footnote defunding the NGSS was the correct decision for the state of Wyoming?**

- I agree that this is the direction that the majority of educators and parents feel we should go.
- I disagree and feel that the NGSS should have a place in Wyoming
- Other

#### **Comments**

**4. Do you feel it is important the Wyoming Department of Education improve communication with parents/public to allow for meaningful input into the education of their children and support legislation strengthening current communication practices?**

- Yes
- No
- Other

**Comments**

I didn't know that parents weren't able to give meaningful input to their children's teachers ... sounds more like an issue with teachers than an issue needing legislative injunction.

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The Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) is a citizen tracking program, and a grant program, that rewards states financially for participating. It's also called P-20, which stands for preschool through age 20 (workforce) tracking. It will hold data and share it statewide and with third parties. This data includes an unique identifier for every student that does not permit a student to be individually identified (except as permitted by federal and state law) and also includes the following; school enrollment history, demographic characteristics, and program participation record of every student; information on when a student enrolls, transfers, drops out, or graduates from a school; students scores on tests required by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act; information on students who are not tested, by grade and subject; students scores on tests measuring whether they're ready for college; a way to identify teachers and to match teachers to their students; information from students' transcripts, specifically courses taken and grades earned; data on students' success in college, including whether they enrolled in remedial courses; data on whether K-12 students are prepared to succeed in college; a system of auditing data for quality, validity, and reliability; and the ability to share data from preschool through post secondary education data systems.

**5. Would you support legislation insuring that parents are informed about the data being collected on their children in public school, which also includes information on how that data is being used and mandates safeguards for protecting that data? (The following language would also be included in the legislation: not allowing data to be shared between state agencies, not collecting data without written parental consent (opting-In), not sharing the child's name or any identifying information outside the local district, etc.)**

- Yes
- No
- Conditionally

**Comments**

I believe this should be an opt-out feature. But I support the safeguarding of all personal data.

**6. Do you support legal recourse to the entity who is gathering data on Wyoming citizens, should the data be misused or stolen by a third party due to insufficient safeguards protecting the data held by the State Longitudinal Database (SLDS)?**

- Yes
- No
- Other

#### **Comments**

In this day and age, even governments and multinational banking institutions have data stolen, regardless of the millions of dollars spent in safeguards. As written, I cannot support this question. However, I do not support the selling of data for marketing purposes or other similar misuses.

**7. Should the state level standardized test (PAWS) be changed to a national test such as Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) or Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), who are both partnered with the American Institute for Research (AIR - a behavioral and social science research and evaluation organization)?**

- Yes
- No
- Other

#### **Comments**

I would have to do additional research on this. I do support combining or eliminating many of the redundant testing that is distracting from student learning.

**8. Do you believe that tying a teacher's evaluation to her/his students' test scores is detrimental to good teaching practice and encourages teaching to the test?**

- Yes and I will support legislation preventing it.
- No
- Other

#### **Comments**

I've seen this go both ways. Some teachers teach to the test, some don't. But there needs to be some accountability for student performance on tests that evaluate learning. Whether that is best accomplished by tying evaluations (and subsequent pay increases) to testing or not I'm not sure.

**9. Do you believe that parents have the Constitutional right that allows for their input and grants them as the final decision maker in the education of their child, when it comes to the standards, curriculum, absenteeism, homeschooling, etc?**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Other

**Comments**

It is important for parents to be involved in their child's education. However, ultimate authority in their child's education inherently rests with the interests of the state. I support this because many parents (with the greatest of intentions) are not qualified to home-school and most are unduly terrified of very good educational programs like CCSS and NGSS because of fear-mongering, partisan politics.

**10. Additional comments about Education**

n/a