

Fields marked with a * are required.

First Name *Daniel

Last Name *Zwonitzer

What office and district are you running for? *House District 43

City *Cheyenne

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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

Standards are good and hopefully we can hold students accountable to them. All the teachers in the three elementary schools I represent unanimously tell me Common Core is a good thing. It's not perfect, but it's the best we've been able to achieve thus far.

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

Well sure, if you believe there are people capable of making a research-based, peer-evaluated, targeted academic standards in Wyoming; and you're cool with spending \$5-\$10 million of our tax revenues to develop them, I'm cool with it. But the majority of Wyoming would think that's nuts.

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

It's certainly not the feeling of the majority of parents and educators in my District or in Cheyenne. I've only had 8 parents and one substitute teacher statewide tell me this was the correct decision. I have yet to meet anyone with a master's degree and an actual understanding of what goes on in our K-12 curriculum tell me NGSS is bad for Wyoming with a solid argument. But if one presents itself, I will listen.

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 don't know what this means. Why would parents want to talk to a bureaucratic agency? They should be talking to their local school boards, their schools, and possibly the State Board of Education. I don't believe there are any major reasons for the WDE to have increased communication with parents as the WDE is a bureaucratic state agency which handles pass through funds and assessments.

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 a 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

We've been using similar processes since the 1950s. If we're going to collect data, it has to be reliable and statistically valid. Thus, you can't allow people to opt-out as it skews the numbers. Also, the point of data is to understand and analyze the information- the data itself should be allowed to be shared between state agencies. There should be involvement on what type of data is collected and parents should be informed.

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

I feel it's silly we'd go litigate because the world finds out Jonny got a D in English and a C in Algebra; but if a serious breach occurred which could be traced to ineptitude- yes I believe in legal recourse.

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 believe we test too much. We now use the ACT- which is a national standardized test. I believe this is sufficient.

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

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

10. Additional comments about Education

I don't understand this battle against Common Core Standards. I believe the standards are above the level of Wyoming's standards and we need to ensure our kids get a world-class education to be able to compete in the world. Common Core only became political after Obama praised it; I don't believe there is any boogeyman or any threat of using common core. I'm fine with replacing it with something Wyoming-style, as long as the standards are similar and rigorous.