

Fields marked with a * are required.

First Name Sheryl

Last Name Lain

What office and district are you running for? State Superintendent

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

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 believe the legislative process is not the place for the actual development of standards - that work should be done collaboratively at the state and local levels

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

I don't support legislating by footnote. I am not in favor of wholesale adoption of the NGSS because the standards are so detailed as to influence day to day classroom instruction, and because as we are starting to see with Common Core standards, there is often a loss of classroom richness and rigor as schools focus on performing well on tests measuring the narrowed content in the standards.

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

There is a need for meaningful input from parents and communities. Legislation can establish processes for doing so (and in fact many such processes already exist, such as the rulemaking requirements for notice and public comment that must be followed when the State Board adopts standards), however the true need is for leadership in Wyoming's education discussion who will be willing to listen to these concerns rather than simply accepting the recommendations of out of state consultants.

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'm not convinced that the benefits a P-20 data system can provide justify the costs of implementation and loss of privacy. Continuing to strengthen instructional practices across our classrooms is the surest way to make sure all Wyoming students are prepared to succeed in college and/or careers.

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

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

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

There is no test in existence that can determine how well a teacher teaches.

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

I do believe that parents are the final decision maker in the education of their children. I want to express that those parents who do choose to enroll their children in public schools also have an obligation, sort of an implicit "social contract" to exercise this decision making in a manner that is not too disruptive to the classroom. Freeing schools from top-down mandates and requirements can also help schools accommodate parents' decisions in a way that is similarly, not too disruptive to the student, family, classroom teacher, and building.

10. Additional comments about Education.