



Georgia Baptist Mission Board

RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMON CORE EDUCATION STANDARDS (ALSO KNOWN AS COLLEGE AND CAREER GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS)

Submitted by Tanya Ditty, Messenger from Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta, GA

WHEREAS, we are grateful to all our educators for their sacrifice and service in educating our children, and endeavoring to teach high educational standards; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the primary responsibility for the education of children according to Deuteronomy 6:4-9 rests with their parent(s); and

WHEREAS, we believe that education standards are best determined with the active input of local citizens, parents, teachers, and taxpayers in a transparent process; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards, developed by unaccountable non-profit groups during a closed-door process, are a set of copyrighted national academic standards promoted as a method for conforming American students to uniform (“one size fits all”) achievement goals, allegedly to make them more competitive in a global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, this push to nationalize standards weakens parental influence, leads to more centralization of education in violation of federalism and local control, and violates the spirit, if not the letter, of three federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards are part of a broader program that includes federally funded testing and the collection and sharing of massive amounts of personal student data, which may violate the privacy of students and their families and increase the federal government’s ability to invasively monitor American citizens; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Baptists oppose any standards that weaken parental influence, undermine conservative values, disregard our Christian heritage, or penalize students who refuse to endorse a secular, naturalistic worldview; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards effectively remove educational choice, competition, and innovation within the public school system since all schools and all districts must conform to this top-down control; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core standards require teachers to focus so completely on preparing the students for the standardized tests mandated by the Common Core that it essentially limits teachers from assisting and challenging their students as unique individuals to excel with their God-given talents and abilities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgia Baptist Convention requests the Georgia State Legislature to withdraw Georgia from the Common Core State Standards Initiative and any testing aligned with the Common Core standards, and prevent other national standards in our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that the Georgia State Legislature prohibit all state officials from entering into any agreements that cede any measure of control over Georgia education to entities outside the state and ensure that all content standards as well as curriculum decisions supporting those standards are adopted through a transparent statewide and/or local process fully accountable to the citizens in every school district of Georgia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we request that the Georgia State Legislature prohibit the collection, tracking, and sharing of personally identifiable student and teacher data except with schools or educational agencies within the state; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia’s Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of Georgia.