

Colorado Springs Charter Academy

Resolution Concerning Common Core

15 May 2014

WHEREAS, the Colorado Charter Schools Act states “that the best education decisions are made by those who know the students best and who are responsible for implementing the decisions” and encourages “diverse approaches to learning and education and the use of different, proven, or innovative teaching methods;”

WHEREAS, the Colorado state constitution mandates that Colorado is a local control state, wherein local school boards, including those governing charter schools, are constitutionally provided discretion in setting curriculum for their students and, according to the Colorado Charter Schools Act, allowed to develop “different and innovative forms of measuring pupil learning and achievement;”

WHEREAS, The Colorado Springs Charter Academy pursues rigorous academic standards and consistently exceeds Colorado State Board of Education (Common Core) content standards and assessment criteria;

WHEREAS, Common Core content standards and assessments ultimately drive changes to scope and sequence of district or charter school curricula and furthermore Common Core standards written and developed at a national level circumvent or alter local control of curricula;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colorado Springs Charter Academy Board hereby expresses its overall opposition to broad and overarching Common Core Standards and assessments for the following reasons:

- Undue or unnecessary influence or circumvention of control of curriculum as driven by the Common Core standards and assessments.
- Pushing local charter schools and school districts to modify curriculum or spend unnecessary time “teaching to the test”.
- Development of content standards that ultimately drive changes to curricula that are far removed from local control.
- Interfering with or circumventing the innovative teaching methodologies and practices as developed by local charter schools or districts that best meet the needs of their students.
- Driving all schools towards greater conformity rather than greater innovation.

Given that Colorado Springs Charter Academy chosen curriculum exceeds the Common Core content standards, no change or modifications are necessary to the scope or sequence of the curriculum as defined in the CSCA charter. Colorado Springs Charter Academy opposes assessments and content standards that have little or no input at the state or local level and impinge upon the innovative solutions provided by charter schools and local school districts.