

Choice and Charter Schools Kill Public Schools

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By Anita Hoge:

How the "CHOICE" Fix Won't Fix Common Core

Is There Such A Thing As A Parallel School System? Looking at the plans puzzling together for a Trump Presidency, education is front and foremost on many parents' minds. Parent warriors have become concerned to the point of being totally stressed over the appointment of billionaire Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education. Why is this?

President-Elect Trump promised a vision of life without Common Core—

- A day of looking forward to our kids not being manipulated with the behavioral conditioning processes of teacher-trained Skinnerian techniques;
- A day without government data mining our children and inputting their private behavioral data over to the Feds.



Anita Hoge

Is our battle over yet? Can we rest assured that Donald Trump will keep his promise to rid our schools of all of the Common Core baggage? Are solid academics on the horizon, again?

Unfortunately this just doesn't seem to be happening. President-Elect Trump has jumped off the TRUMP TRAIN and he has jumped on the phony CHOICE TRAIN. Keep in mind that Vice President-Elect Mike Pence is a pro-"CHOICE" Governor, and he muffled the true spirit of academic freedom by cleverly rebranding the Common Core standards in Indiana:

"Indiana governor Mike Pence has made a serious miscalculation on what could easily become the sleeper issue of the 2016 presidential campaign, Common Core. After dramatically withdrawing

Indiana from participation in Common Core, Pence was poised to become a hero to the grassroots movement resisting this egregious bid for federal control of America's traditionally independent and locally run education system. Instead, Pence has created the illusion of quality and independence, while installing second-rate standards that are little more than Common Core rebranded."

[\(Source\)](#)

And on the charter school "CHOICE" agenda Governor Pence has pushed charters:

"But Pence has a robust record on the issue. As governor, he pushed through the most significant increase in charter school funding in years, according to Chalkbeat Indiana. Pence worked with the legislature to create a \$10 million grant fund that would offer an extra \$500 per student to charters that post better outcomes than traditional public schools. And if Pence had his way, the funding would have been even more robust—he initially pitched a \$1,500 per charter school student increase."[\(Source\)](#)

Since the election, every new word coming from our President-Elect is beginning to sound a bit too familiar. It reminds us of the Senator Ted Cruz S 306 legislation that we parents fought when Sen. Ted Cruz was running for President *against* the TRUMP TRAIN. Not quite the words we wanted to hear from Mr. Trump. This sort of government-sponsored CHOICE sticks in our throats because we know the outcome—more oppression over our children and more Common Core for ALL. [\(Source\)](#)

Do we want this kind of "CHOICE"?? No! This is a false CHOICE, and it is not the pathway that will lead our children to educational excellence. Phony CHOICE is not the answer to American exceptionalism. Government-controlled CHOICE is globalism, not Americanism. That scrap of money tied to the child will determine future ambitions and pathways. It is linked to the government's similarly aligned obsession to create "human capital" – i.e., the government determining the worth or worthlessness of your child as a commodity in the future workforce. Do elected officials realize just how offensive this is to America's parents? Our children are not "human capital"!

This sort of government-controlled CHOICE is a trap, Mr. Trump. "CHOICE" is a pretty cozy word that assumes freedom. Little do parents understand the tentacles of federal strings that accompany federal assistance. Or, maybe they haven't thought of it in those terms. But, yes, CHOICE is accepting federal assistance. And with that comes the "Have To's", where all children, parents, teachers, and schools will be forced into the federal government's obsession with domineering over the lives of our little children.

Many advocates of this CHOICE appear to think that killing public education is OK. Betsy DeVos, President-Elect Trump's new pick for Secretary of Education, thinks so. "Detroit Public Schools, she argued, should simply be shut down and the system turned over to charters, or the tax dollars given to parents in the form of vouchers to attend private schools." [\(Source\)](#)

She believes that our public schools are an

"...antiquated, top-down model of education in this country that originated in the 1800s in order to "educate the masses."



**IF YOU'RE NOT
OUTRAGED
YOU'RE NOT PAYING
ATTENTION**

And her CHOICE:

“is beginning to transform to a student-centric model that respects every child’s unique learning style.” [\(Source\)](#)

Well, isn’t this interesting. This is the exact personification of COMMON CORE! ESSA, *The Every Student Succeeds Act* passed by Congress this past year, legislated this and more. Every child must meet Common Core standards, with digital individualized career plans and diagnostic supports that will help Johnny and Suzy attain government-determined “proficiency” in collectivist style mental health and globalist attitudes, values, beliefs, and dispositions.

But this isn’t why the citizens voted for you, Mr. Trump. We want you to STOP COMMON CORE!

Pending Education Secretary DeVos also explains her views that

“Educational choice is an essential part of the solution to our nation’s education challenges, including the greater issue of education inequality in America. The idea that no child should be defined or limited by his or her ZIP code or family’s income is deeply rooted in our movement’s commitment to social justice. Every parent should be free to choose the best educational environment for their children and low-income and minority children are too often the ones without choice. The only way to truly improve and innovate our nation’s system and help these students is through educational choice. The public is recognizing that true choice will break open our nation’s closed education system, encouraging innovation and education entrepreneurs to develop new ways for children to learn and reach their full potential.” [All emphases added]

DeVos’s version of CHOICE will certainly “break open,” or better defined, “smash down” the public school system. Is the destruction of local public schools what American citizens voted for? The biggest problem with this DeVos thinking is that Common Core does not allow or encourage academic attainment, nor opportunity for advancement. If her CHOICE is initiated, Common Core remains – because of ESSA. *Didn’t we all just vote to get RID of Common Core?*

Here is how it will work. DeVos’s fake CHOICE will saddle every school with Common Core that forces individual children to have an individualized personal “plan” to meet those government standards, no matter which ZIP code or school they will attend. And this is the ominous end goal for little Johnny or Susie. It is a new way to learn, but it isn’t academics. Social justice is equated with “individuality,” giving way to the forced struggle for “equity” and molding children into cookie-cutter drones. Inequality in ZIP CODES sounds like re-distribution of wealth, with CHOICE being wielded as the useful tool to get American education nationalized. But that also means a leveling of wealthy ZIP codes to be the same of the inner city. Now, that’s equality. That’s what socialized CHOICE looks like, and this is what Betsy DeVos is all about!

But is this what President-Elect Trump is all about? Is anyone honestly talking to him about the direful impacts of her freedom-diminishing sort of CHOICE? To date there has been NO discussion of the effects of this CHOICE for every child, not to mention the dreadful longterm effects this will have on communities, taxes, local control, and the market value of local homes and properties.

Common Core + Government CHOICE ≠ true freedom of choice. It is a pending disaster...the disappearing American dream.

Others driving the CHOO-CHOO CHOICE Train

Jeb Bush announced that the DeVos pick was “outstanding...a passionate change agent to press for a new education vision.” Of course he would say that. She is Chairwoman of the American Federation for Children (AFC), a charter school promotion group, and she is also a board member of Bush’s non-profit Foundation for Excellence in Education (FEE). Bush and his foundation have served as champions for the Common Core standards. [\(Source\)](#)

Application Profile

Application Number: R372A0547
 Competition: BA.372A05 Date Entered: 6/30/2005

Organization Information
 Organization Name: Florida Department of Education
 Organization Unit: Accountability, Research & Measurement
 Organization Address: 125 West Gaines Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32309-0400 Country: United States of America

Project Director Name and Information
 PI Name: Mr. Jay J. Pfeffer
 PI Address: 125 W. Gaines Street
 Room 614
 Tallahassee, FL 32309-0400 PI Country: United States of America
 PI Phone: 850 245-0407 PI Fax: 850 245-0238 PI Email: Jay.Pfeffer@fldoe.org

Application Title
 A Proposal to Implement an Enhanced & Fully Integrated Longitudinal Data System in Florida to Serve as a National Model

State Identifier
 Period of Performance: Project Begin Date: 04/1/2005 Project End Date: 06/30/2008

Abstract

1. The title of the project: A Proposal to Implement an Enhanced and Fully Integrated Longitudinal Data System in Florida to Serve as a National Model.
2. The title goal under which the applicant is applying: The Federal long term goal of this program is to increase the number of States that maintain statewide longitudinal data systems. In order to assist States in generating and using accurate and timely data to meet reporting requirements, support decision-making at State, district, school and classroom levels, and facilitate research needed to enhance achievement goals and enhance learning of students. In keeping with this goal, Florida proposes to engage in a systematic process of integrating information from the Florida school district data and facilities-reporting systems into the K-20 Education Data Warehouse (EDW) environment by way of an Operational Data Store. This will provide an unprecedented, user capacity for the indicators of student progress and outcomes directly to district administrators, in alternative, and program-level units at the classroom-level. Identical indicators of student success will be created to identify the facilities in which they are achieved. The proposed project will provide diagnostic, time analytic dimensions currently unavailable in any state; not only will these be readily accessible on periodic, current activities, but on a longitudinal basis as well. The project will result in processes and techniques that may be replicated in other states. It will serve as a national model that can be adopted and improved upon by others.
3. The potential contribution the proposed project will make to the solution of an education problem: In collaboration with School Districts, States across the country are developing statewide student information systems to respond to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and related state requirements. Florida has a well established student information system and has just completed developing a longitudinal K-20 Education Data Warehouse. What is not included in that warehouse, and will not be included in new state developments, is a systematic way to integrate student performance information with cost and facilities information. This is an important need step to create robust accountability information systems. This proposal addresses this need and will do so in a way that will provide guidance to states as they develop similar systems.
4. The populations from which the participants of the study (ies) will be sampled: age groups, race/ethnicity (SES). This is not a sampling process. It deals with the universe of students, related costs, and facilities. It deals with all appropriate age groups, ethnic and socio-economic characteristics.
5. The proposed research methods: This proposal is designed around a standard, Bestwide Information Systems Development Methodology, which involves iterative steps, demonstration and evaluation.
6. The proposed intervention (s) that has been proposed: This proposal will rely on existing state systems and expertise from state and local practitioners to define requirements, design solutions, develop experiments, and test products.

Human Subjects No Exempt from Regulations No Exempt from IRB Insurance IRB

Application Number: R372A0547 6/30/2005 10:42 am Page 1
 Project Director Name: Mr. Jay J. Pfeffer

A Proposal to Implement an Enhanced and Fully Integrated Longitudinal Data System in Florida To Serve as a National Model

Submitted to
**The U.S. Department of Education
 Institute for Education Sciences**

By
The Florida Department of Education

June 30, 2005

CFDA Number 84.372

Oh course, “low energy” Jeb’s vision is totally Common Core, artificial CHOICE, and pro-charter schools. When Jeb served as Governor of Florida he was a prominent supporter of the individual data-mining performed on children, with Florida becoming the national model for the collection of personally identifiable information of children. Jeb is also a leader in the change agent/Common Core enablers. His connections, plus his opinion of DeVos for Secretary of Education, give him an inside track to legislation and a soft welcoming chair in future Secretary DeVos’s office. [\(Source\)](#)

Congressman Messer (R-IN), who introduced the *Scholarships for Kids Act* in 2014, is also a CHOICE enabler. Congressman Messer’s bill is the companion to the bill introduced by Senator Lamar Alexander, who is Republican Chairman on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and formerly served as Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush.

Senator Alexander, along with Speaker Paul Ryan, pushed through the Reauthorization of *No Child Left Behind* called ESSA, *Every Student Succeeds Act*, which codified the Common Core/mental health agenda nationally, effectually making President Obama’s Flexibility Waivers law, thus further diluting a real academic education. Note how Senator Alexander stated this about the 2014 *Scholarship for Kids Act*:

“This is the most ambitious proposal ever to use federal dollars to enable states to expand school choice, and is a real answer to inequality in America, giving more children more opportunity to attend a better school. I look forward to working with Congressman Messer to get this bill through Congress and signed into law.” [Emp. added.]

Of additional concern,

The Scholarship for Kids Act, introduced in the Senate by Senator Lamar Alexander and in the House of Representatives by Rep. Luke Messer, would

*re-direct existing federal education funding (Title I) to provide up to 11 million scholarships for low-income children. The scholarships created under this bill would **follow K-12 low-income children as they attend either the public or private school of their parents' choice**. The money for these scholarships, up to \$24 billion a year, would come from **existing funds directed towards schools**, meaning no new spending and no funds cut from education. [All emphases added]*
[\(Source\)](#)

Readers, notice that the money goes directly to schools, bypassing state legislatures' budgets. This is a states' rights question for sure. The Messer/Alexander bill actually allotted more money than President-Elect Trump's proposed \$20 billion for "CHOICE". Also remember that Rob Goad, aide to Rep. Messer, has been tapped by the Trump campaign to advance this same CHOICE agenda. This pile of money may grow. The Scholarship Act has not been passed but shows the direction of this sort of CHOICE thinking.

The Messer bill aligns to Senator Ted Cruz's bill to include homeschools. Let's look at what the Messer proposed bill would also require: state Common Core standards and tests, provides that parents are able to use that money to pay for private school tuition and fees, supplement their public school or charter school budget, attend a school outside of their district **or purchase tutoring services or homeschooling materials**. It further

Requires participating states and their local educational agencies to continue to: (1) work toward state academic content and achievement standards; (2) conduct annual assessments of student progress toward those standards; and (3) issue annual report cards of student progress, disaggregated by specified student subgroups, toward those standards.

*"No child should have to go to a school where they won't have a meaningful chance to learn," said Congressman Luke Messer. "This bill empowers parents with the personal freedom to choose the best learning environment for their child **regardless of income**. Quality education is the great **equalizer** in the game of life, and bills like this one, which offer parents a choice, **level the playing field**."*

Questions for Congressman Messer:

- Has Congressman Messer ever explained to taxpayers what "**leveling the playing field**" means?
- Has he explained to school board members and homeowners that pay taxes for public schools how this is a massive redistribution of wealth?
- Has he explained that with his fake CHOICE, Title I CHILDREN are not just poor children, and that SCHOOL WIDE encompasses the entire school to have access to CHOICE not just certain poor children?
- Has he explained how the exodus of children out of public schools will eventually kill public education and destroy local districts?
- Will he admit that teachers will no longer be hired by the local school district?
- Will he try to evade questions about the apparent coming dissolution of elected school boards?
- Has he answered penetrating citizen questions about how taxes would be collected and where they would be sent when local neighborhood schools collapse?
- Has he addressed the terrible effects this will have on property values when the playing field is leveled, wealth is redistributed, and equity becomes the commitment to social justice agenda of changing the complexion of your entire ZIP code?

I don't think so. So what is this CHOICE all about? Is it about the change necessary to end representative government to move toward globalism? I fear so. . . .

Part 2

Why the Mantra of “Separation of Church and State” Will Not Matter Under a Trump/ DeVos CHOICE Agenda... and they know it.

Will CHOICE explode over the issue of the separation of church and state? No, CHOICE sidesteps the issue. Here's why.

At this year's American Federation for Children Policy Summit, Education Secretary-elect Betsy DeVos boasted about the growing momentum for her “education revolution.” Rob Boston, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, stated this about DeVos:

“It's very alarming,” referring to DeVos as a “four-star general in a deceptive behind-the-scenes war on public schools and church-state separation.”

“People support school vouchers for different reasons. Some make a free-market argument because they are opposed to public schooling. Others want to prop up sectarian teachings with taxpayer money,” Boston said. “DeVos has a foot in both camps, which does not bode well for our public schools.” ([Source](#))

The question is certainly one that must be answered. What is the result of a Trump/DeVos government-controlled CHOICE (versus true free choice) agenda? DeVos believes the church has been displaced by public schools. She believes not just in funding Christian schools, but wants to reform the whole *system* to bring “greater Kingdom gain.” In essence, DeVos wants all children to be baptized in Common Core for a new world order globalism kingdom.

Perhaps what Rob Boston doesn't know is that when Title I money “follows the child” and is deposited in an Education Savings Account (ESA), there is no beneficiary to the religious or private school since the money goes to the parent. An Arizona Court of Appeals ruled that a separation of church and state exists. The idea of giving money to religious schools does not meet the legal standard, so this is bypassed when government funds are deposited into an ESA belonging to the parent.

The Nevada Supreme Court ruled that ESAs belong to the individual parent and thus are not “public funds” subject to that church-state limitation. Here is an excerpt from the decision:

Once the public funds are deposited into an education savings account, the funds are no longer “public funds” but are instead the private funds of the individual parent who established the account. The parent decides where to spend that money for the child's education and may choose from a variety of participating entities, including religious and non-religious schools. Any decision by the parent to use the funds in his or her account to pay tuition at a religious school does not involve the use of “public funds” and thus does not implicate Section 10.”

In this situation the child could still be considered a Title I FEDERAL CHILD under federal guidelines in ESSA, particularly if that child has been determined Title I by the local school district labeling the child. Therefore when ESSA states that public school CHOICE means “direct student services” it means that the services follow the child, which are Title I Common Core mental health support services. The questions then become:

- Must the social, emotional, behavioral baggage of Common Core be implemented as mandated in ESSA in every school that accepts a CHOICE child?
- Does this also mean that an ombudsman will oversee the implementation of these psychological services in every private, religious, and homeschool?

The law is the law. Perhaps President-Elect Trump should push to repeal ESSA! Otherwise this phony CHOICE

comes with tentacles – governmental intrusion into private family homes and reaching deep into the religious schools of America’s children.

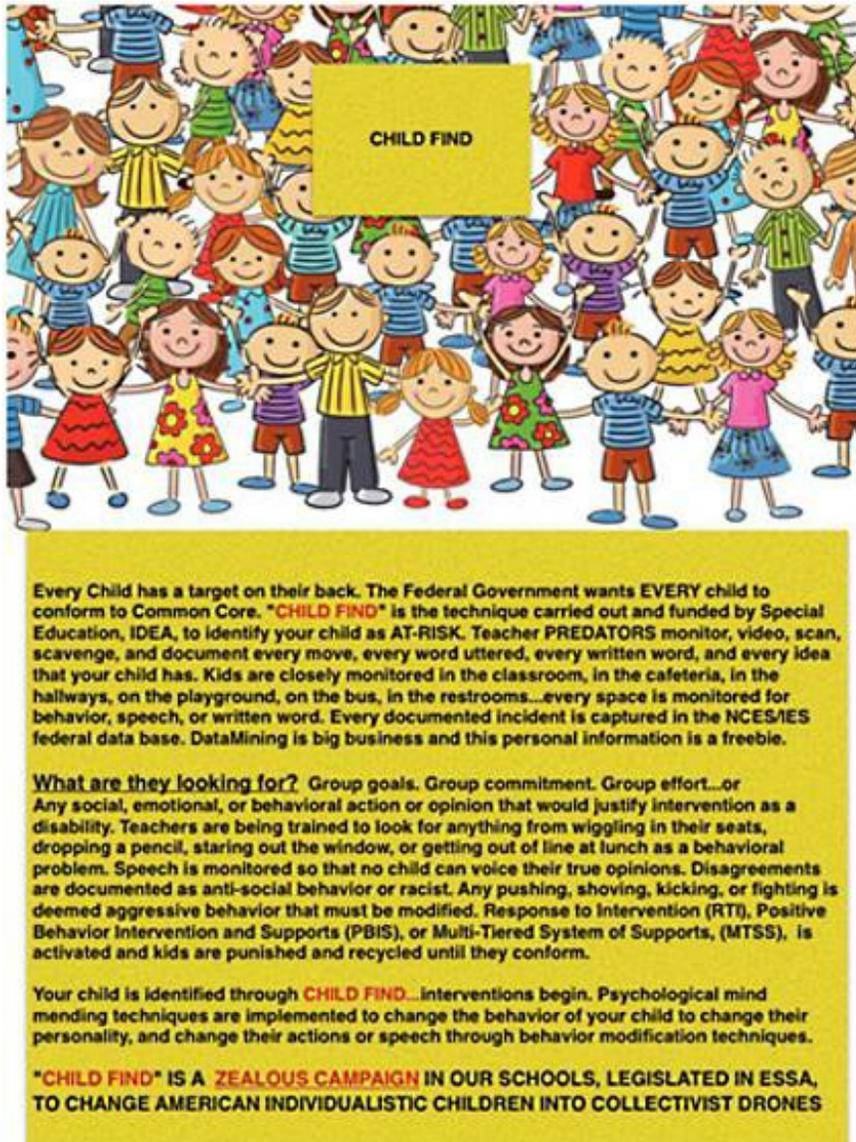
So, is the next frontier in education the Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)? Aligning the Stars for the DeVos Common Core CHOICE agenda.

What has been achieved so far to make Common Core CHOICE happen:

- Common Core standards mandate directly to the child, bypassing local control.
- Title I At-Risk students are identified under Common Core as disadvantaged—not poor.
- Title I SCHOOL WIDE blankets an entire school—all kids are Common Core disadvantaged.*
- Title I Per Pupil Expenditures in ESSA sets up the “equitable” money following the child.
- FERPA weakened privacy through President Obama’s EO 12866 by allowing 3rd party vendors access to Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
- State longitudinal data systems tracking students with a national unique ID in which psychometric dossiers are collected and shared.
- IDEA uses CHILD FIND to identify normal children with disabilities. (Progressing)
- IDEA’s remediation of social, emotional, and behavioral state standards identify the child with mental health coding.
- Psychological treatment named in ESSA means hiring more psychologists, psychiatrists, etc.
- Psychometric dossiers on children are then transferred to the Feds, NCES/IES. (Progressing)
- IES monitors, evaluates, and creates algorithms on children, teachers, and the curriculum is matched and cross-referenced to identify weaknesses in meeting the government’s Common Core standards.
- 3rd party vendors research and validate curricula, tests, and software directed to Common Core. Corporations profit from Common Core.
- IDEA coding sets up MEDICAID billing for mental health wrap-around “direct student services” for which the psychological techniques are named in ESSA legislation.
- ESSA further expands charter schools as a replacement for all public schools. When this government-sponsored CHOICE is implemented local public schools will fail.

Achieving “future shock” of disappearing representative government—but achieving CHOICE for all children.

Both Senator Cruz’s S 306 and Congressman Messer/Senator Alexander Scholarship Act legislation meet the criteria for the DeVos CHOICE plan.



Betsy DeVos will have the total support of the Heritage Foundation, sponsor of the agenda of the “controlled” political Right for several generations, to plot the next steps to move forward with the Charter/CHOICE globalist plans. The Heritage/DeVos plan will eliminate representative government, shut down PARENTS’ and citizens’ voices in education, delete a citizens’ right to have their vote represented, and remove the local school board as the community’s taxing authority. Regional workforce industry clusters will be developed to gather taxes, or taxes will be directly sent to the state. Teachers will be hired from the state level.

This dark and foreboding future for American’s parents and their precious children—not to mention the crumbling apart of local towns and communities—is exactly as President OBAMA planned with his equity agenda. This is further complicated with the smearing of the lines between the Democrats and Republicans. They are *both* working off the same game plan to destroy our Constitutional Republic and representative form of local government.

(Sources – 1 2 3)

I am able to call ESSA, and the set-up for what was named in the prior legislation in 2013, the “*same-game plan*” because when the Democrats were in power, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) sponsored SB 1094. The Per Pupil Expenditure was referred to as FEDERAL SCHOOL CHOICE, whereas in the 2015 ESSA legislation it is called PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE. **(Source)** (See Republican legislation below.)]

Here’s the “*same-game plan*” (Republicans and Democrats in bed together) that you can expect with the passage of any forthcoming Heritage/DeVos Common Core CHOICE legislation:

- Legislation to make Title I funds portable to cover ages 0-21, to be used as a scholarship for every child in any public, charter, private, religious, or homeschool.
- Set up an ESA, education savings account, for government accountability and oversight over every family receiving federal financial CHOICE assistance. The federal camel will have its nose under your family's tent.
- Define exact government criteria to receive funding for all educational uses and "quality" evidence-based curricula (i.e., it all must be aligned to Common Core standards.)
- Demand testing/curricula align with Common Core for national evaluative purposes, based on the national assessment test, the NAEP.
- Defined "direct student services" will mandate that public school CHOICE be used as mental health specialized student support services for meeting government standards. This will include all children from birth to age 4, universal daycare, K-12, and through 2 years of free community college, which means hiring or contracting psychological personnel for support services.
- All schools eventually bill Medicaid for support services—which is ObamaCare ages 0-21.
- All schools—whether charter, private, religious or homeschools—become "chartered" under authorized charter management as an ombudsman named in ESSA.
- Schooling is nationalized under the banner of Common Core CHOICE government schools.

Was this Mr. Trump's promise? Could this possibly be what parents want? Is this what American citizens want?

There is a seductive carrot and a sharp stick for this CHOICE plan. Officially, a family would be able to receive \$12,000 per year (split between federal, state, and local taxes), multiplied by 18 years, which is a lot of money to ignore. A \$216,000 jackpot awaits those parents who will give up their children to the government's sci-fi agenda of wonky inferior Common Core and experimental psychobabble. BUT, no one is sure if parents can turn their backs on the money once their child is determined to be Title I and needing IDEA psychological support services by Special Education scavengers looking to mislabel normal children as disabled to get "free" money, i.e., CHILD FIND. This serves a warning to parents who decide to jump on the CHOICE TRAIN: because your decision may be forever for your child's future.

My final say about this Common Core CHOICE TRAIN: You are bound to lose, not money, but your children. And, Americans, you are about to lose your FREEDOMS. Because this is government-controlled CHOICE from start to finish, a diabolical plan that will put tentacles of control into the private thought life of every single American child. Big Brother is looming. . .

*A Final Note: President Obama and former Secretary Duncan removed Title I poverty levels in schools in which the 40% guideline of free and reduced lunch children was lowered to "0"% by illegally "waiving" the *No Child Left Behind* federal law. The criteria of a Title I child could be "At-Risk" or "becoming" At-Risk of not meeting Common Core. The Title I guideline called Schoolwide is a net that covers ALL children in a school whether FAMILIES are poor or wealthy. ALL children would become Common Core disadvantaged. In reality, ESSA codifies the Schoolwide agenda and prepares a nation for "NO REAL" CHOICE for every child when the expansion of Per Pupil Expenditures mandate Common Core to every private, religious, and homeschool.

[Source HR 5 2013 Republican legislation](#)

"SCHOOLWIDE Programs: The bill eliminates the 40 percent poverty threshold for SCHOOLWIDE programs, allowing all Title I schools to operate whole school reform efforts. This change, included in the Obama administration's waiver package, will allow low- income schools greater flexibility to consolidate programs and focus their efforts on raising the achievement of all students." [Emp. added.]

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