



**ARKANSAS  
ADVOCATES**  
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

1977-2012  
For Thirty-Five Years

Richard Huddleston  
Executive Director

Main Office:

Union Station, Suite 306  
1400 W. Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 371-9678  
(501) 371-9681 Fax  
www.aradvocates.org

Northwest Office:

614 East Emma, Suite 107  
Springdale, AR 72764  
(479) 927-9800  
(479) 751-1110 Fax

July 10, 2013

The Honorable Johnny Key, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
P. O. Box 350  
Mountain Home, AR 72654

The Honorable James McLean, Chair  
House Education Committee  
20 Mill Run Trail,  
Batesville, AR 72501

Dear Mr. Chairmen:

At your invitation, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families submits the following written testimony regarding the Common Core State Standards.

**Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families Supports the Adoption of Common Core State Standards with the following caveats.**

- Although over 40 states have adopted the standards, few have developed strategies to help ensure that all districts can meet the standards and provide an equitable and top notch education for all students.
- If they are to compete with richer and better resourced districts, it will be important for districts with large numbers of low-income students and/or fewer resources to receive the supports they need to effectively introduce and implement the new standards.
- The Department of Education should do an assessment to determine what additional supports and resources are needed to make culturally diverse and low-income students successful with the new standards.
- The capacity assessment should address but not be limited to: technology support; instructional materials and equipment; adequate instructional time; strategies for remedial support; and professional development for implementing the standards for diverse and low-income students.
- The full benefits of a Common Core will be realized only if the achievement gap for low-income students is made a top priority and the needs of low-income students are addressed in an equitable fashion.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

Sincerely,

Rich Huddleston  
Executive Director

Jerri Derlikowski  
Director of Education Policy