



Common Core & Related Education Issue Comparison - Florida District 73 House Primary



Name/Party	Anti-Common Core Activity	Pro-Common Core or Deceptive Activity	Opposes Common Core in Campaign Lit or Forums	Anti-Common Core Endorsement or Rating	Pro-Common Core Endorsement or Rating
Mr. Joe Gruters - R FSCCC Grade – D-	Did help get the Sarasota REC to support an anti-Common Core resolution	Promoted deceptive renaming of CCSS at 2013 Governor's Summit (p. 57 & below)	One mention in opposition on campaign Facebook in February. Yes in forum And in surveys . Website contains NO issue positions	No	Florida Chamber
Mr. Steve Vernon – R FSCCC Grade – A	Much via the Manatee Tea Party & Manatee REC	No	Lists opposition to Common Core as one of his top priorities. Promised to author bill to remove standards in Campaign for Liberty Survey	Manatee Tea Party	No
Mr. Joe Golden – D No website or surveys to review so no grade given.	N/A	N/A	No positions available to review	No	No

Other Important Information Considered in FSCCC Grade –

Mr. Gruters, as evidenced by this screen capture from the official record of the 2013 Governor’s Education Accountability Summit, was one of the first officials to float the idea of the deceptive, “lipstick on a pig” name change of Common Core to the Florida Standards. This was the first step in Florida’s Common Core rebrand that started with the governor’s [executive order](#) in September 2013, moved on to the [sham public hearings](#), the [name change of Common Core to the Florida Standards](#) by the State Board of Education and then the ["lipstick on a pig" legislation](#) that merely removed the term "Common Core" from statute. Merely changing the name and refusing to actually replace these horrible standards has done untold harm to our students and teachers, to parental rights and to student privacy.

Education Accountability Summit

August 26-28, 2013

Team 3:



Steve Chambers: We had #1 – solution commitment to standards and training. We need to take resources from somewhere.

Joe Gruters: #4 – Communicate to all stakeholders what state standards are or are not. For parents, provide good resources. We certainly need a comprehensive communication strategy. We need to remove the words “Common Core” from this discussion. We need to talk about Florida standards. By talking about Florida, we may be able to minimize the negative feedback that’s out there.



Mr. Vernon, as former president of [Tea Party of Manatee](#), he has understood the problems with Common Core from early on and has worked with that organization to fight it. He has publicly promised on his website and in surveys to make work against Common Core a major feature of his time in office. He has spent more than \$90,000 of his own funds because he is so concerned with what is happening to our state and nation, especially in education.



Pastor Golden has only raised \$200 for his campaign and has no website to review.



Grading Scale

A - Sponsored or co-sponsored bills against the Common Core system (see “Anti-Common Core System Bills” below) and has not been involved in promoting or expanding the system, and or obtained strong anti-Common Core endorsements, and or has publicly worked and spoken out against the Common Core system, not just in campaigns.

B – Has taken a strong stand against the system publicly either during session or in campaign, and or has publicly promised to sponsor anti-Common Core legislation, or has received strong anti-Common Core endorsements, and not made false statements about their legislative record or sponsored any bad Common Core bills.

C – Has made some effort in sponsoring and or co-sponsoring good anti-Common Core bills or made anti-Common Core statements in forums or campaign literature but still may have co-sponsored a bad bill or received pro-Common Core endorsements.

D - No effort or even statements on the Common Core system or much in education, and or has received pro-Common Core endorsements, and or has sponsored or co-sponsored bad pro-Common core system legislation.

F – Actively promoted the Common Core system via bill sponsor or co-sponsorship, has blocked good legislation from a position of leadership, or has been blatantly deceptive in campaign material or speeches about their Common Core record.

Common Core Questions Voters Should Ask of Candidates –

As support for Common Core decimated the presidential campaigns of numerous Republican candidates and it becomes more obvious that the whole [system](#) is a [failure](#), political candidates are trying to deceive voters while trying to please their big business establishment donors. Here are four questions that you can ask to see if their opposition is real or just a battlefield conversion when the heat is turned up:

- 1) Do you support Common Core (many are likely to say "No")
- 2) Do you believe that Common Core is out of the state of Florida as [Governor Scott](#) and [Jeb Bush](#) have proclaimed? (If they answer yes, please show them the information at these links!)
- 3) If you think Common Core is still in Florida, what will you do to see it removed?
- 4) If you oppose Common Core, what did you do during the last year or term to get rid of it? (for incumbents, some of whom supported anti-Common Core bills in the legislature after they knew they would not be heard).