

**Shane Martin**  
South Carolina Senate District 13  
Greenville, Spartanburg and  
Union Counties

Committees:  
Corrections and Penology  
General  
Judiciary  
Medical Affairs  
Rules



June 23, 2014

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**RECEIVED**

JUN 30 2014

State Superintendent's  
Office

Ms. Melanie Barton  
Executive Director  
SC EOC  
PO Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211

Dear Ms. Barton,

I recently read your comments concerning the elimination of Common Core from South Carolina education standards and I am very frustrated and alarmed. Your statement that "I wouldn't say it's going to be a total rewrite," strikes me as incredibly tone deaf if not outright defiant. Perhaps you have not followed the discussions of the General Assembly since January, but let me assure you that the intention of the legislation is that South Carolina students not be subjected to Common Core standards in any way, shape or form. I hope you understand that now, if you didn't understand it before.

Ms. Barton, your further complaint or excuse that "we don't have time to do that," also strikes me as unbelievably disingenuous. You certainly had time in 2010 to adopt Common Core standards in record time through a truncated and barely legal process, but now you tell us that you don't have time to undo that debacle? I, many of my colleagues and the majority of parents and students in South Carolina, simply will not accept that abdication of your LEGAL responsibility.

Ms. Barton, I know that Superintendent Mick Zais is committed to eliminating Common Core from South Carolina, and I know that the State Department will issue new standards in ELA and Math that will accomplish that legal directive. I will be following the actions of the EOC to ensure that it, and you, do not stymie the will of the people of South Carolina as reflected in the action of the General Assembly. I trust that you will not allow an individual agenda to thwart the education of South Carolina children.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Senator Shane Martin  
District 13

cc: Sen. John Courson, Chairman  
Senate Education Committee  
412 Gressette Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Rep. Phil Owens, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
429 Blatt Building  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. Mick Zais, Superintendent ✓  
SC Department of Education  
1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201