

Donald Trump has emphasized that he plans to “end Common Core” immediately after assuming office, claiming, “it’s a disaster.”<sup>1</sup> Further, he has stated that he will “immediately add an additional federal investment of \$20 billion towards school choice...by reprioritizing existing federal dollars.”<sup>2</sup> He plans to “give states the option to allow these funds to follow the student to the public or private school they attend. Distribution of this grant will favor states that have private school choice, magnet schools and charter laws, encouraging them to participate.”<sup>3</sup>

Trump’s vice-president, Mike Pence, has similarly denounced Common Core in favor of state and local control of education. As governor of Indiana, Pence advocated for a very limited role of the federal government in education, and as governor moved away from this testing in Indiana.<sup>4</sup> Further, Pence denounced Common Core as a federal overreach and stated that the federal government should not have control over developing educational policy.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, Trump has named Betsy DeVos to be secretary of education. As citizens of Michigan, DeVos and her husband have contributed significantly to changing the Michigan school system by opening their own charter school, creating an educational advocacy group, and backing significant education funding legislation.<sup>6</sup> She is a strong supporter of school choice, and has explained, “I am not a supporter [of Common Core]—period.”<sup>7</sup> Further, she endorses high standards as important, so long as they are voluntary and driven by local policymakers.<sup>8</sup>

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1 <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

2 <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

3 <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

4 <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/20/us/politics/trump-vp-mike-pences-record-on-education.html>

5 <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/20/us/politics/trump-vp-mike-pences-record-on-education.html>

6 <http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/02/politics/betsy-devos-michigan-education-legacy/>

7 <http://betsydevos.com/qa/>

8 <http://betsydevos.com/qa/>