



## TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

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June 14, 2011

Robert Scott  
Commissioner

Gene Wilhoit, Executive Director  
Council of Chief State School Officers  
One Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20001-1431

Dear Mr. Wilhoit:

I am in receipt of your email regarding CCSSO membership renewal, dated June 3, 2011. I am writing to inform you that I am formally resigning from CCSSO and that the Texas Education Agency will no longer sponsor its staff participation in CCSSO activities.

My primary reason for resigning is the declining value proposition that CCSSO offers to a state such as Texas. It is increasingly difficult to anticipate a return on the investment that Texas has made in CCSSO. As you must be aware, the Texas Education Agency did not participate in most CCSSO activities during the last fiscal year. I have determined that the agency did not experience any appreciable impact from our lack of participation in CCSSO. Therefore, with reductions in my agency's budget for the coming biennium, I simply must prioritize and invest in areas where Texas students and educators will see the greatest benefit.

Furthermore, please know that your organization's advocacy for national standards and national tests is not in the best interest of the state of Texas and in my opinion, the nation. While your letter claims that CCSSO "understands that each state has real and discrete needs," your actions in concert with other Washington D.C.-based special interest groups and the U.S. Department of Education demonstrate otherwise. It never was and still is not in the best interest of Texas to be coerced into replacing its transparent standards adoption process and highly evolved assessment program with national standards and tests developed largely in secret through a process led by special interest groups who are not elected and who lack any public accountability.

Sincerely,

Robert Scott  
Commissioner of Education