

Jerry Oliver - 17th District House Seat

Q1 COMMON CORE

Most of what I know about Common Core suggests it is a ‘dumbing down’ of traditional curricula. Last year I met a retired teacher in Connecticut working as a contractor training teachers to use Common Core. She was appalled that students were learning in fourth grade what she had taught in second grade.

There are many valid curricula available; the choice of which to use should be that of the local school board and not that of the State of Washington and certainly *not* that of the Federal Government.

Q2 SBAC Testing

I am a supporter of achievement based testing. Such testing provides a tool for teacher evaluation and student assessment. The SBAC alignment with Common Core makes me suspicious of its validity.

Q3 Smaller Class Size

All things being equal, smaller class size apparently is not the determinant of student success.

Q4 McCleary

McCleary represents an unconstitutional usurpation of legislative authority by the Supreme Court. It is the Legislature’s responsibility to set funding levels for education and the people’s right to petition the legislature to attain an appropriate level of funding.

QX Charter Schools

I support Charter Schools and would like to see more of them.

Q5 Fully Funded Education

Education costs are higher in King County than in Asotin County. The legislature should develop a funding formula that addresses the disparity and then provide 100% of funding necessary to provide *basic* education to each district.

Q6 Opt-Out of Testing.

I do not understand why a parent would want to “opt-out” of testing. Achievement testing strengthens a child’s educational opportunity by pointing out possible deficiencies.

Q7 ESSA

See my response to Q8.

Q8 Role of U.S. Department of Education

This agency should be abolished.

Q9 Top 3 Legislative Priorities

I really have only one priority: to fully empower parents to educate their children. My first bill will be to establish Education Savings Accounts. This will be modeled after the law Nevada implemented in 2014. The accounts would be funded by the local school district and would be equal to 100% of the per student expenditure of that district. Parents could then direct that the funds be paid to meet educational costs for their children. The funds could be used to hire private

tutors/teachers; fund other private schooling (including religious schools or vocational schools); and off set home schooling costs.

My economic development priority is to reduce business taxes and regulation and put the 400,000 unemployed across our state back to work. Back to work so they can have the dignity of supporting their families and paying taxes to support our communities.