

## WILEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-13JT

8/1/14

Dear Patrons and Parents of Wiley School District R13JT:

Due to the growing number of questions and concerns from parents and the public concerning the district's possible use of the Common Core School Standards, the Board of Education and administration of the district wish to offer the following statement.

The Board of Education and administration of the district will continue their efforts to offer the best educational opportunities for the education of the whole child. Therefore, the district will continue to base its curriculum and goals for student achievement on the 2009 Colorado Model Content Standards which were written by Colorado educators for the benefit of Colorado children. The district will continue to monitor the progress of the Common Core School Standards but have no desire to adopt these standards at this time.

Questions and concerns have also arisen concerning the new PARCC assessments that all Colorado students will be taking during the 2014-15 school year. While the Board and administration are concerned with the over-emphasis now being placed on standardized assessments, the Board and administration will continue to instruct teachers in the district to NOT spend classroom time "teaching to the test". Again, the focus of the district will be on educating the whole child and improving the academic progress of each individual student.

Because these state mandated assessments are required by law, the district is required to administer these assessments but will not be using the results from these assessments to make major curriculum or instructional methodology changes. The results from these assessments can and do play a major role in the district's accreditation status. If the district does not have a 95% student participation rate on these assessments the district's accreditation status could be lowered. Therefore, the district encourages all parents to allow their children to participate in these assessments. Not having the students participate hurts the district more than having a student score poorly.

Because of all of the negative questions concerning PARCC testing, the Board and administration are proactively working to find answers to these many questions. Please rest assured that the district will work to protect the privacy of student and family information the district is not comfortable in sharing outside of the district level.

These are tumultuous times in education but rest assured that the Board and administration of the district are working to find answers to the questions and solutions to the various problems that have arisen from new legislation at the state and national levels.

Sincerely,

Wiley School Board and Administration