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Texas Is Right to Quit the 'Race for the Top' Education Program

by [Brooke Dollens Terry](#)

As if bailing out banks and the auto industry wasn't enough, now Washington, D.C. wants more control over schools.



In order for a state to apply for its share of President Obama's Race to the Top stimulus funds, it will have to explain how it will use those federal dollars on a list of suggested education reforms. This week, Texas Gov. Rick Perry said "thanks but no thanks."

This was the proper decision for Texas, and here's why:

- Education has historically been a state issue, with power in Texas delegated to the Texas Legislature and the State Board of Education. Texas lawmakers control funding and school requirements, and the State Board makes decisions about curriculum. All of these are elected positions directly accountable to the voters at least once every four years.
- States such as Texas may have to spend state funds to access the federal dollars. The Texas Education Agency estimates that Texas will have to spend \$3 billion just to have the chance to access, at most, \$750 million.
- The federal funding will dry up. As we are seeing with other stimulus funds, states and local school districts would need to find funding for the reforms after the federal money goes away.
- What if the "reform" could be a step backwards for quality of a state's education system?

It seems that if Texas continues to hold out on moving towards a national curriculum, Texas will lose points on its application for Race to the Top funds. Why should a state that has steadily improved the rigor of its own K-12 curriculum be forced to adopt national curriculum standards that have not been developed and could wind up being weaker than what we already have in place?

Since adding more math and science course requirements and college-readiness components, Texas is in the process of updating its textbooks and designing state end-of-course exams that align to the new curriculum. Yet if Texas were to scrap its own curriculum in favor a national curriculum, Texas would have to spend an estimated \$3 billion – \$2 billion to purchase new textbooks and \$1 billion to redesign our state tests.

Education is a state issue, and the federal government has no business dictating academic standards or curriculum to states. Washington, please leave Texas alone.



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 [Cowboy Logic](#) 109p · 2 days ago +2


Congratulations to Governor Perry. He made the right decision.

Everyone knows that in President Obama's Race to the Top stimulus funds, the race is fixed. Everyone also knows "white men can't jump". They probably can't run either.....

/sarc off....


On a serious note, Texas is a Republic, She needs to send all the carpetbaggers packing.

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 [Sunshine Connie](#) · 2 days ago +4


They want states to apply for the funds so they can control the education agenda. Have you read a textbook for children published in the the past 10 years? They are already a disgrace. Can you imagine how bad they will become in a few years? Every person needs to be raising hell over the progressive re-writing of history and the dumbing down of all educational materials. Oh that's right the NEA is a big voting block and many of the teachers are stupid as well. The state of education is a disgrace and they want to attack charter and home schooling? Teachers and materials are a flippin joke. Parents need to wake up and we all need to demand better. This will propel future generations into a 3rd world nation once known as the the USA if we do not demand better all the way around..

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 [bill h](#) · 2 days ago +1

An excellent example of "looking down the road." The author is correct, what happens when the money from Washington runs out? I'm all for saying "thanks but no thanks" too!

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 [Bob](#) · 2 days ago +1

It is abojut time the States started to claim back what has been theirs consitutionally and not be bribed by the Federal Government. Foxnation.com has a great reminder on what belongs to the States and what belongs to the Federal Government. Time for all states to take back their rights and tell the Fed to back off. Give us our freedoms back.

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 [tex4](#) · 2 days ago +5


I love living in a state that doesn't need a "Nanny"

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 [ebonaut](#) 65p · 2 days ago

hopefully the republic of Texas will be the trendsetter, giving other states the balls to say 'no thanks' to DC. states rights, budgets and identities have been under assault for many moons with being held hostage for federal dollars and unfunded mandates.


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 [Lewwax](#) · 2 days ago

+2

What some of us Coloradans would do to have someone like Rick Perry leading our state!!! Even in my worst nightmares I never thought Bill (tax) Ritter could be as bad as he has been.


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 [Annie](#) · 2 days ago

+1

GW Bush signed back on with UNESCO from which Reagan had departed. The plan is globalized education, the text books are already written, and probably in use in some areas. The Obama administration have taken over the banks, housing, car industry, possibly Medical Facilities, Education is quite likely in the plans. The man in the WH is a Marxist.

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 [JcT](#) · 2 days ago

+6

My children are now in Texas colleges, having gone K-12 in various Texas schools. Our schools are the finest in the nation, bar none. We do not need, and will not permit, the Federal government sticking their Socialist noses into our excellent education system.

Anything the Federal government does to anything, makes it worse, with the exception of bulding Interstate highways and blowing stuff up.

The sad part is, the Socialists in Austin will make Perry out to be a bad guy for doing this. When he tried to refuse the fake "Stimulus" money from the Feds, the Legislature overrode him. Now we are beginning to see the strings attached to that money, and it isn't pretty. The Socialists in Austin love it because they can give more port to their Messiah, Obama.

Rick Perry is a true Texas hero.

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 [mikatollah](#) 91p · 2 days ago

-20

Here in Texas we do love teaching the story of Adam and Eve to our science students. And then we are shocked when only 67 percent of high school students graduate. No. 51 in the nation, Yeah Baby! God bless Texas.

We may be stupid here in Texas, but it's a proud stupid.

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 [bobdog](#) · 2 days ago

+3

There's no such thing as "free government money". It ain't free, it doesn't really belong to the government, and it has handcuffs attached.

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 [lqxp1](#) 51p · 2 days ago


+4

Stick to your guns, Perry.

With the first round of 'Stimulus', some institutions, after declining assistance, were given "an offer they couldn't refuse." I am sure that the few states that decide they'd prefer to run their own education-programs will be given similar offers.

Fortunately, a State has a much clearer definition in the Constitution, and the powers granted to it are likewise clearer. This could turn out to be a rather interesting conflict.


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 [Old Vet](#) · 2 days ago

+2

Like all federal programs, this one is all about conning local entities into becoming agencies of the federal government. "Take this money, but give us this control in exchange". The ultimate goal of this may well be to give the NEA control of the local school boards by requiring that the union be the only representative for the teachers. Teachers do a job most of us won't do. If the cost of living wasn't so high, I would go back to school and become certified to teach because our children are being turned into mindless slaves that can be led around by the nose.

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 [Old Vet](#) · 2 days ago

+5

Sorry teach, but you made my life difficult with your incompetence when I was a K-12 student. Your methods were so bad that for my senior year history class, I only had to take all the tests every week and never crack a book, or read a magazine. Fortunately, I had grade school and junior high school teachers who were still dedicated to the job, but that was because they didn't get tenure. Tenure for college professors is essential to the college since they are "rainmakers" for the institution. But beyond that, tenure is a way to prevent incompetent teachers from being fired and keeping unions in charge of our kids. The time has come for this fraud to be ended. School districts must give back all federal money and find ways to get by until we the people clean house on the congress and eliminate the department of education, reduce taxes by the amount the department steals from the taxpayers, so school districts can get that money from their patrons. We must hold K-12 teachers to a higher standard. Since they are government employees, if they "go on strike", then employ the Regan option and fire them all for just cause.

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 [copperpeony](#) 77p · 2 days ago

+3

Obama and his pervs probably want want Jennings to spread his fodder to the children of Texas about fisting under the guise of excellence. Perry is a smart man.


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 [Cameron Bird](#) · 2 days ago

+1

Say no to Marxism, tell Obama to shove it up his


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 [Missouri1970](#) · 2 days ago

+1

My wife is a teacher in Missouri and DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) has stated that we will do Race to the Top with OR without fed funds.....we have no say!


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 [JMA](#) · 2 days ago

+1

Ironic how the program has the word "race" in it.


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 [hockeynation](#) · 2 days ago

-10

In Texas the religious right has permeated the state school board to push their agendas. Starting as early as 1994 the RR has pushed hard to get their people on the board. We're not talking about education professionals, we're talking about people that don't even have college degrees. The agendas range from removing minority achievements to removing women carrying briefcases! The intent seems to be to rewrite American history.

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 [freddie](#) · 2 days ago

+3

The feds will pimp the program. They want to have local districts go broke so they can bail out and take them over. It is not safe to have a wolf for a family pet.

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 [grinreaperxx](#) 73p · 2 days ago

+4

Look at the controversy brewing over the Beverly Hills Ca School district that has decided to forgo the acceptance of state funding. They have decided to rely solely on the local taxpayers to fund the schools and have thrown out all the inter district transfers. This was a preemptive strike on Race to the Top. They knew that they would be flooded with transfers from the bottom 10% of schools that they would not be able to deny if they had space and took the funding. The district, which has some of the highest performing public schools in the nation, would have been swamped with low performing students many of which would bring gang and other problems with them.

Expect this to become a new trend for various wealthy communities that have good public schools and are located within easy commute of the 10% of failing schools. This is an unintended consequence of Race to the Top. It is totally predictable.

Pundits of Race to the Top, say that the parents and students will just take over their local failing school and will stay to make it better. You know that is BS. Lets see.. on one hand, stay in the hell hole school and fight to make it better...Hmm....Drive 8 miles to send the kid to Beverly Hills where the schools are good.. That is a toughie, a real head scratcher. Meanwhile the kid can make more money selling crack, as the rich kids have big allowances.

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 Jon · 2 days ago +2

There is a similar power grab going on in the Fisheries world right now. The Fed has taken control over state powers on harvesting fish. They have also mandated that every fisherman (Commercial/recreational) register with them one way or another. No Fee's yet.....

I would like to see an investigation on that level too.

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 REV Wright · 2 days ago +1

What's wrong with da "diversity" schools in Washington, D.C.? Black Democrats ensure da these schools bees da best! You bees racist! REV Jeremiah Wright

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 Neds · 2 days ago +3

There's little wonder that home schooling in on the rise...

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 Bastiat Fan · 2 days ago +5

Texas is starting to really appeal to me as a place to live. Anyone down there need a graphic designer?

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