

July 31, 2019

Press Release

Nevada Accountability One Of Many To Raise Alarm, “Washoe County School Board Warned Of Computer Adaptive Testing Data Dangers At June 23 Meeting, Did Nothing To Protect Nevada Children”

Reno, Nevada - Washoe County School District announced today, as required by law, the private information of over 114,000 students, over a 15 year period had been compromised at Pearson, one of the corporations that administer Computer Adaptive Testing as part of the Common Core requirements. Todd “Taxpayer” Bailey continued his warnings and concerns regarding the use of Computer Adaptive Testing, and the security of the data that the companies the district pays millions to collect. On July 23, trustees and staff were specifically warned of the dangers of collecting student data with outside vendors, who have repeatedly proven they are unable to protect Nevada children.

The Need For Complete Transparency On Student Data Security: *“The Washoe County School Board of Trustees need to take some action, I fear this is just the beginning of many student data compromises that have yet to emerge. Nobody at the administration level even knows how big this problem is, and because of the technical nature of the problem, nobody at the district really knows what to do. It is this lack of action that is putting every family in Washoe County at risk. Parents have little choice, **Washoe County School District has signed million dollar contracts with corporations that want this data on our children, and then share it without our permission.** Data security is the last thing on the board's or administration's agenda, and Nevada Accountability can prove it! The need for transparency has reached a new level of urgency”,* said Mr. Bailey

Washoe School Board Warned, Did Nothing: *“There were many voices who spoke publicly at the July 23 board meeting on student data privacy and security. Why, after being warned of the Computer Adaptive Testing data dangers, did they do nothing to protect Nevada Children? After being made aware that online applications used by students in the district were owned by dangerous foreign governments, why does the board continue to allow that data collection? In fact, Washoe County School Trustees have no idea who is collecting data on students in the district, where that data is going, and what security protections there are. They simply do not know. Washoe County School Trustees need to add an item to the August 13 agenda, so staff can answer questions from all of us, on the safety of our children's data they are collecting each school day and sharing across many companies and government agencies. That's terrible and should stop immediately”,* said Mr. Bailey.

Nevada Accountability collects publicly available data, conducts deep policy research, and provides analysis through public reporting. For more information or to interview Todd “Taxpayer” Bailey, call **775 338-4443** to schedule. Membership information is available at www.NevadaAccountability.com