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SBBA OPPOSES JINDAL PLAN TO UNILATERALLY SCRAP COMMON CORE *Governor's Actions Ignore Will of Legislature and BESE Board*

Governor Bobby Jindal's announcement today that he is single handedly attempting to pull the state out of Common Core by withdrawing from the PARCC consortium is an extreme disappointment to the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for the Higher Education (SBBA). The SBBA believes that his actions deny Louisiana children the best opportunity we have at this time to deliver the higher quality education necessary to prepare them for college and the jobs of the future. Louisiana is currently ranked 48th in the nation in K-12 education, and we have some of the lowest college graduation rates in the country. Louisiana standards are simply not good enough, and they never have been. We need a rigorous set of standards, such as those present in Common Core, if we hope to change these statistics and enable our children to compete for the high-paying, high-skilled jobs in the increasingly global economy.

This spring, the SBBA joined the Louisiana Legislature, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), State Superintendent John White, and dozens of business and good government groups from around the state in support of staying the course on Common Core. We believed then, as we do now, that the Common Core State Standards are the right standards for Louisiana.

"The business community in Louisiana strongly supports Common Core because we want to be able to hire Louisiana kids to fill Louisiana jobs," said Rich DesCoteaux, SBBA Board Chairman. "We are tired of hiring from out of state because our local applicants lack the skills we need. We want to hire our neighbors' kids, but we can't do it if they are not adequately prepared."

By seeking to withdraw from Common Core at this time and in this manner, Governor Jindal threatens not only to send Louisiana schools and Louisiana educators into disarray, as there is no "Plan B", but also to send a troubling message to businesses throughout the nation that the Louisiana education system will be in administrative chaos for the foreseeable future. As a result, the SBBA stands with the BESE Board and Superintendent John White. We applaud their decision to remain focused on the children and the economic future of Louisiana by continuing with their plans, and thus fulfilling their legal obligation, to implement Common Core State Standards and administer the PARCC assessment in 2014-2105 for students in grades 3 through 8.

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The mission of the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education (SBBA) is to promote economic development by aligning the offerings of higher education with the needs of the business community.