

Supporting Common Core

Proponents of education initiative give their views

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Two weeks before the start of Louisiana's legislative session, several proponents of the Common Core State Standards are speaking out, saying the

state should keep the controversial standards in place.

Carrie Griffin Monica, communications director for Stand for Children Louisiana; Barry Erwin, president of the Council for a Better Louisiana; and S.J. Welsh Middle School

Principal Keith Leger met Monday with the *American Press* editorial board to discuss their reasons for backing Common Core.

"We feel very strongly about doing everything that we can to make sure that [the

CCSS] remain in Louisiana," Monica said. "When you have 34 percent of kids who have to take remedial courses when they get to college, it's obvious that we need to make sure that our kids are better prepared for [that] ... or to enter the

workforce or whatever it is our kids dream of doing when they grow up."

When compared with other states, Louisiana isn't where it needs to be regarding education, Erwin said. He said he believes the CCSS can help the

state get to a higher level. Leger said he has backed the CCSS from the beginning because it requires students to think critically and use problem-solving skills. According to Leger, effective teachers would agree that they want students to understand the material and not just memorize it.

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