



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION AND MISSILE COMMAND  
5300 MARTIN ROAD  
REDSTONE ARSENAL AL 35898-5000

MAY 1 2013

Honorable Robert Bentley  
Governor of Alabama  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor Bentley:

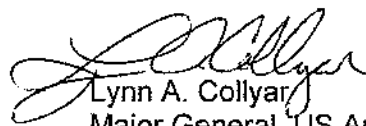
Education remains a critical concern for Redstone Arsenal and our surrounding communities. We strongly believe our schools must remain competitive, both nationally and internationally, in order to produce America's future leaders and the workforce for tomorrow.

An exceptional education is an essential quality of life requirement for our workforce and vital to our mission's success. National initiatives, such as Common Core State Standards and Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, ensure our children do not confront varying standards and expectations. The Department of Defense considers education for the military-connected child a top priority, and as a result the DoD Educational Activity adopted Common Core State Standards in December 2011. This decision provides our children clear, consistent standards through a nationally-recognized curriculum and positions them to thrive and succeed.

The ongoing debate in Alabama places Common Core State Standards at risk, and is a genuine concern for us. Indeed, the continued success of Redstone Arsenal will largely depend upon our ability to attract and sustain a highly-educated and well-trained workforce. The framework provided by Common Core State Standards, Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, and A+ College Ready puts our schools on the path to academic competitiveness. These initiatives have produced an expectation of increased rigor and higher scholastic achievement throughout Alabama. It is imperative the state of Alabama sustains these efforts with renewed commitment to consistent oversight, appropriate funding, well-qualified teachers, and cutting-edge technologies in the classroom.

Your endorsement of Alabama College and Career Ready Standards based on Common Core State Standards will ensure our local educational and research facilities remain capable of providing our students the necessary skills to succeed around the globe. We stand ready to provide all possible assistance and support in this important endeavor for the state of Alabama and Team Redstone.

Sincerely,

  
Lynn A. Collyar  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding