

The Washington Post

The myth that national school standards boost achievement

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Apparently, like most supporters of national curriculum standards, The Post's editorial board either hasn't read or doesn't care about the research on such standards ["Holding out," editorial, Aug. 10]. Otherwise, in lambasting Virginia for not signing on to national standards, the editorial would not have said that "the wide variation in state standards . . . has produced poor outcomes." There is zero meaningful evidence of that, just as the research reveals that all other things equal, countries with national standards do no better than those without.

Meanwhile, there is a great deal of evidence demonstrating that our problems stem largely from public schooling being a government monopoly. And the feds bribing states to adopt a national curriculum will only make that problem worse.

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