

Common Core State Standards

What is the Common Core?

The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) is a set of national K-12 standards developed primarily by a nonprofit organization called Achieve, Inc., in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The Common Core was developed without state legislative authority.



The end of local control

Common Core centralizes what kids are taught, how they are taught, and what they should learn, in the hands of a few educational bureaucrats at the national level. This minimizes the role of teachers, parents and local school boards.

Warned about by our founding fathers, especially James Madison, and actively pursued by progressive politicians since Wilson, national control of education will certainly signal the end of the protections guaranteed by the 10th Amendment.

The end of innovation

Joseph A. Califano, Jr., former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, once wrote, "In its most extreme form, national control of curriculum is a form of national control of ideas".

Common Core: Intrusive Data Tracking

The Common Core ensures that the states build expensive high-tech systems that will track student performance and other personal data and provide that information to the federal government.

"Hopefully, some day, we can track children from preschool to high school and from high school to college and college to career." - U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, from a June 8, 2009 speech



Common Core's Exorbitant Price Tag

The unfunded mandates associated with the Common Core are open-ended in areas such as professional development, new textbooks and instructional materials, testing, and data-tracking systems. The suggested ratio of students to computers is 2:1.

A recent study shows implementation will cost \$16 billion or more nationwide, with about 90 percent of this paid for by states and local districts, despite the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top grants. The Common Core fuels a money pot of tax dollars going to pre-selected vendors.

Factoid #1:

- Total US defense spending \$690 billion
- Total US education spending \$809 billion

Where Things Stand

Several states have rejected Common Core entirely, some have delayed implementation and some are just starting to become engaged in efforts to stop Common Core.

To get updates on your states status, contact your local sponsor, below. Or contact: TruthinAmericanEducation.com/

Take Action

- Call, write or email your federal, state and local political representatives
- Attend local rallies and events
- Sign "Stop Common Core" petitions
- Buy and wear Stop Common Core clothing
- Volunteer and demonstrate



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Sub-standard Standards

English Language Arts (ELA) Standards

Dr. Sandra Stotsky of the University of Arkansas served on the Common Core Validation Committee but refused to sign off on the ELA standards because of poor quality, empty skill sets, the de-emphasis on literature, and low reading levels, such as 8 grade levels for 12 grade students.

Increasing the percent of non-fiction reading from 50% in elementary school to 70% in high school signals the end of literary classics.

Math Standards

Dr. James Milgram of Stanford University, the only mathematician on the Common Core Validation Committee, refused to sign off, stating, "It's almost a joke to think students who master the common standards would be ready for math at a university."

The basic math standards reflect very low expectations and the geometry standards signal the end of Euclidean geometry including proofs and deductive reasoning.

Next on the Common Core Agenda

Expect the promoters to aggressively push adoption of national standards in science and social studies, just as they have in English and math



Factoid #2: Federal education funding is only 10% of total education spending.

Is STEM the answer?

Despite evidence to the contrary, proponents of Common Core point to American deficiencies in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills.

STEM skills and employment are global, and few positions will be high paying.

People skills will be far more important than STEM skills.



The Three Laws of Future Employment (Daniel Jelski)

Law #1: People will get jobs doing things that computers can't do.

Law #2: A global market place will result in lower pay and fewer opportunities for many careers. (But also in cheaper and better products and a higher standard of living for American consumers.)

Law #3: Professional people will more likely be freelancers and less likely to have a steady job.

An American issue, not a political issue

From Common Dreams, Building Progressive Community

- Common Core is corporate reform and another step in the demise of public education.
- NCLB (No Child Left Behind) was a dismal failure by creating a narrative of failure it shaped a decade of attempts to "fix" schools while blaming those who work in them.



- NCLB proved that the test and punish approach to education reform doesn't work
- Common Core will reproduce the narrative of public school failure that has led to a decade of bad policy in the name of reform and continue the assault on the teaching profession
- The costs will be enormous and will come at the expense of more important things.
- In reality, NCLB's test scores reflected the inequality that exists all around our schools. The disaggregated scores put the spotlight on longstanding gaps in outcomes and opportunity among student subgroups.
- The Common Core's "college and career ready" performance level... will push more kids out of high school than it will prepare for college.

Factoid #3: The US spends \$7,766 per pupil, 33% more than the next highest country, UK.