

Why Parents Should Be Concerned About Common Core

Historically education was implemented, reformed (when needed) and governed at the local level. Concerned Women for America believes that the education of every child lies primarily with parents with the support of elected local and state officials. Educational solutions for children should be made within each state with direct parental input. However, with the Common Core State Standards parents have been dismissed from the educational process and yet are still held responsible for paying the bill.

1. The Common Core State Standards Initiative includes K-12 national standards in math and English language arts with aligned national assessments (tests) and a student data-tracking system.
2. The adoption of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) was not voluntary, nor was it state-led. State boards of education, state legislators, local education officials, school leaders, teachers, or parents were not included in the development, evaluation, and adoption of the CCSS.
3. Most states agreed to adopt the CCSS and their aligned assessments even though neither had been tested or piloted; they both were adopted sight unseen. *What product would you buy sight unseen?*
4. Common Core is a lowering of standards in math and English language arts. Proponents claim that the Common Core standards are “rigorous,” “evidenced-based,” and will make students “college-ready.” However, curriculum experts believe the Common Core standards are below average and only prepare students for a community college rather than a four-year university.
5. Dr. Sandra Stotsky, the premier authority on English language arts standards says, “Common Core’s standards for grades 6-12 do not reflect the core knowledge needed for authentic college level work and do not frame the literary and cultural knowledge one would expect of graduates from an American high school.” Dr. Stotsky also states, “... there is little else with respect to content in lower grades.”
6. Dr. James Milgram, the only mathematician on the validation committee says, “The Common Core math standards will place our students about two years behind their counterparts in high performing countries.” In other words, the Common Core math standards will slow down the learning process.
7. Costs associated with the new standards and assessments are estimated to be nearly \$16 billion over the next seven years. The bulk of the costs will fall onto the states and local districts as unfunded mandates. *Which programs in your schools will be eliminated because of the costs of the unfunded mandates associated with the Common Core?*
8. Proponents claim that the Common Core are just standards and not curriculum and that school districts still control how the standards are being taught. All of this will change when the national assessments are implemented.
9. Standards drive assessments and assessments drive curriculum because we know what is tested is what is taught. With the combination of national standards and their aligned national assessments, parents will have little chance to protect their children from poor or harmful content.
10. The right to privacy has been a bulwark of America since her inception. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protected student and parent privacy. However, this act has been gutted through regulations, thus putting student privacy at risk.
11. States that chose to take federal money via the 2009 Stimulus bill had to agree to build expensive high-tech systems to track student performance and other personal data which will be shared with a myriad of federal and state agencies and vendors.
12. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a June 8, 2009, speech, “Hopefully, someday, we can track children from preschool to high school and from high school to college and college to career.” Statements such as this make clear the government’s intent to track student data.

The Common Core means a loss of local control, a loss of parental rights, a loss of privacy and a high dollar tax burden. The Common Core is an experiment destined for failure.