

# **Common Core - a Trojan Horse for Education Reform**

**By Orlean Koehle,  
State President Eagle Forum of  
California, author, former teacher**

# Common Core Deception

**Common Core  
, pretends to be an  
innocent, voluntary,  
State Initiative, but it  
is a Trojan Horse, a  
national, top-down,  
socialized education  
system in disguise.**

**(It was not voluntary. The State  
governors were coerced with  
bribes and threats to sign on.)**



# Common Core State Standards Initiative

The golden colored States are the ones who have joined CC. The darker colored States are still holding out – Alaska, Texas, Virginia, Nebraska and Minnesota (partly). (Minnesota has accepted the language arts but not the math standards.)



# The Stealth of Common Core

**How was Obama Able to Keep Common Core So Quiet?**



- Obama bypassed Congress since he already had the stimulus money to finance it.
- He went straight to the governors – already strapped financially - with a bribe of \$4.35 billion.
- The governors had to compete for the money - making it appear like a badge of honor if they won.
- They only had 2 months to sign on during a time when most State legislatures were not in session.

# **Other Incentives or Threats for Governors to Sign on to CC**

## **Waiver to get out of NCLB rigid requirements**

- Most States are having a very difficult time meeting the rigid requirements of the education law passed by President Bush – No Child Left Behind.
- President Obama promised the governors that they could receive a waiver to get out of those requirements if they would sign on to CC.

## **Threat to drop Title One funding for non-compliance**

- Title One money is a huge \$14.5 billion federal pot of grant money that is divided up among the individual States to help in the education of poor and needy children. Most States rely heavily on the federal government for this money. Rather than lose that money, the governors signed on to Common Core.

# Race to the Top = Race to the Trough?

**RTTP-D** is an Obama program for individual school districts that want to apply for federal grant money all on their own and are willing to go along with Common Core and all the strings attached.



**How many school districts have applied?**

- As of September, 2012, 893 districts have applied for the RTTP money that will only be given out to 15-20 districts.
- Some of the districts are in States that have refused to sign on with Common Core such as Texas.

# Criteria on Which Grants were Rewarded and the Winning 11 States:

## States Won on their Stated Plans for “Comprehensive Reform”

- Adopting CC standards and assessments [sight unseen].
- Building data systems on students, teachers, and principles - “measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals how to improve.” [Constant evaluations]
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, [Salaries tied to test results, teachers teach to the tests each and every day]
- Turning around lowest-performing schools.

<http://abcnews.go.com/WN/education-funding-delaware-tennessee-win-stimulus-money-schools/story?id=10232553>

## How much were the Grants Received by the Winning States?

- Delaware - \$300 million
- Tennessee - \$300 million
- District of Columbia - \$75 million
- Florida - \$700 million
- Georgia - \$400 million
- Hawaii - \$75 million
- Maryland - \$250 million
- Massachusetts - \$250 million
- New York - \$700 million
- North Carolina - \$400 million
- Ohio - \$400 million
- Rhode Island - \$75 million

<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/nine-states-and-district-columbia-win-second-round-race-top-grant>

# Enormous Costs to the States

## whether or not they won grant money

Overall Costs for all States is \$16 – 30 billion. Individual Costs to States is in the millions.

### Estimated Costs to California –

- *\$800 million for new curriculum,*
- *\$765 million for teacher training*
- *\$20 million for principal training plus assorted minor costs,*
- *\$1.6 billion – total costs.*

### Estimated Cost for Washington State:

Around \$300 million, at a time when Washington already faces a \$2 billion deficit.

### School Districts will be Left Holding the Bag:

- Local school districts will be required to pay for at least half of the costs. In Washington - \$165.5 million of the new spending.
- the cost of new textbooks alone is expected to top \$122 million
- The expense is mainly for the computers, the software, e-books, and teacher training.



# **Nationalized Education is Contrary to States Rights and the U.S. Constitution:**

- **Three Education Laws Against National Standards, Curriculum and Control:**
  - 1) The Department of Education Organizational Act (1979),
  - 2) The General Education Provisions Act and
  - 3) The Elementary and Secondary Act (1965) most recently amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002.
- Each of these laws essentially says the same thing that “The Federal Department of Education shall not be involved in developing, supervising or controlling instructional materials or curriculum.”

# Parents and Local School Boards are to be in Charge of Education

*“The insight of competitive federalism is that the 51 State school boards are better than a single federal executive branch office, and 15,000 local school boards are better than either 51 State school boards or a single federal office.”* Bill Evers, a Research Fellow of the Hoover Institute, Stanford University , spoken July 10, 2012, Public Forum on Common Core at SLC, Utah, [www.UtahnsAgainstCommonCore.org](http://www.UtahnsAgainstCommonCore.org).

# **FERPA Amended - Increased Data Collection on Students and Teachers:**

Obama and the FDOE, Dec., 2011, (by executive order) amended the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to exceed the agency's statutory authority and thus allows them to collect invasive data on students and teachers.

This includes biometrics, health records, personal data, such as religion, political persuasion, etc.

# How National, Socialist, Top-Down Education Works

Donna Garner, a Texas educator and blogger designed the Formula for How Top Down Education Works:



*National standards →  
national assessments →  
national curriculum →  
teachers' salaries tied to  
students' test scores →  
teachers teaching to the test  
each and every day →  
national indoctrination of our  
public school children →  
national database of students  
and teachers*

# Example of National, Socialist Education at its Worse – NAZISM:

## Similarities to Common Core

- Powerful teacher union that the majority of teachers belong to promoting new system.
- Teachers weeded out who could not accept new system.
- Curriculum rewritten to reflect new ideology; history rewritten.
- Anti-intellectual teaching. Standards dumbed down.
- Master teachers (MTs) to train other teachers - really “master spies.” (Obama wants 10,000 MTs – paid by federal dollars)
- Data collected on students and teachers.
- Some students (Hitler’s Youth) trained to spy on teachers and fellow students.
- “Children belong to the state” – *Parens Patria* (The state is the parent)

“German Youth Belong to the *Fuhrer!*” – the title of the article on the cover of a popular women’s magazine in 1932 in Nazi Germany



# CC Standards are Lowered

- **Math:** Common Core postpones algebra from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade, leaving no room for calculus to be taught in high school.  
Little memorization is asked for, and a confusing form of Geometry is taught that was thrown out of the Soviet Union 50 years ago.
- **English, Language Arts:** Common Core teaches only 50% classical literature. The other 50 % is just informational text. Why is that so bad?  
Many great works of art won't be taught. Moral truths, right and wrong, skills in making wise decisions, how to be responsible citizens, the value of liberty are taught in classical literature.

# “Stunted, Utilitarian Mis-Education”

*“What appalls me the most about the Common Core Standards is the cavalier contempt for great works of human art, thought and literary form...We are not programming machines; we are teaching children. We are not producing functionaries, factory like. We are to be forming the minds and hearts of men and women. Frankly, I do not wish to be governed by people whose minds and hearts have been stunted by a strictly utilitarian mis-education.”* [Anthony Esolen](#),

professor of Renaissance English Literature at Providence College in Rhode Island

# National Tests Tied to CC Standards

Common Core is preparing the States for a national assessment, which students can only do well on if they have the common core curriculum.

**“High-stakes testing:”** Teachers salaries depend on how well the students do on the tests.

The future of the school is dependent on how well students do on the tests. Three bad years and the school is taken over by a private corporation and becomes a charter school.



# “Education without Representation”:

**Written at the top of the website of the Three Moms Against Common Core:** Christel Lane Swasey, Renee Brady, Alisa Ellis



- If your own State-elected legislators never had a vote about this, how can CC be by representation, and how can it be called a State initiative?
- When public schools are forced to become privately-run charter schools, they are no longer represented by an elected school board.

# Teachers are Being Forced to Use CC Standards at Peril of their Jobs:

- Teachers are being told they can no longer use any of their old files or their “tried and true” materials and methods or their jobs are in jeopardy.
- Their reaction: “a maelstrom of pent-up resentment over being forced to do what's wrong for kids, and being afraid of losing gainful employment by speaking out.” Diane Ravitch, professor of ed at NY University

## **Much Money to be Made from E-Books and Computers:**

Special interests and billions of dollars are driving the push to Common Core by people like Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft Computers and the Pearson Foundation, the biggest publishers of e-books.

The e-learning market in the U.S. is expected to grow to \$6.8 billion by 2015, up from \$2.9 billion from 2010.



Most of the learning will be done on computers with e-books. Tests will be given on computers including the big assessment test coming in 2014. How easy students can be programmed and reprogrammed. Teachers will essentially become facilitators.

# **Who really wrote Common Core—a Cartel of “the Chiefs”**

It consisted of: members of the CCSSO, Council of Chief State School Officers, the NGA, National Governor’s Association, and a chief education policy group part of the NGA. These groups were joined by members of the Obama Administration and a progressive group called Achieve, the teacher labor unions - FTA, NEA, and ACT and the College Board.

# The Influence of Left-leaning Linda Darling-Hammond (LDH):

**Stanford Education Professor and author of many far-left progressive education books**



**Bill Ayers considers Darling-Hammond his “favorite education expert.”**

- She was Obama’s education advisor in his campaign and is a primary player and writer behind Common Core and Race to the Top Assessments.
- She is essentially the leader for the Smarter-Balanced Assessment Consortium, one of two groups writing the test.

# **The SAT, ACT, and GED Tests Will Be “Aligned” to Common Core Standards**

- David Coleman, one of the chief architects of the CCSS, took over as the College Board’s president October 15. He stated that he plans to rework the SAT and ACT to align with CCSS:
- Pearson, the foremost publishing company of e-books for the Common Core Standards, has formed a partnership with the American Council on Education (ACE), and together they will be aligning the GED to the Common Core standards.

# Effect on Home Schools?

- Home-schooled students have been some of the top scholars taking the GED , the SAT and the ACT college entrance tests and winning many scholarships to some of the top Ivy League universities.
- Of course, if they are to do well on the revised GED tests and the college entrance tests, they will have to be taught the Common Core dumbed-down standards. This is how Common Core will come creeping into the home school curriculum.

# Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation – Backers and Promoters of Common Core



Gates stands to make billions with the use of his computers with Common Core curriculum and testing in schools

- The Gates have given \$100,000 million to fund Common Core in the USA but have also given millions to the International Benchmark group (a UN NGO) to promote Common Core worldwide.



# The Power and Influence of Pearson

A Pearson logo advertising a conference to train teachers



Pearson is “the world’s leading learning company.”

- In 1988 Pearson began acquiring education publishing companies.
- It now owns 100 education brands including Scott Foresman, Prentice Hall, Allyn & Bacon, Addison-Wesley, Silver, Burdette and Ginn, Longman, Benjamin Cummings and Macmillan Publishing.
- During the years, Pearson has also branched out to companies abroad with interests in 70 countries and 36,000 employees.

# Sir Michael Barber – How Common Core is Being Promoted Globally

**Left-leaning Sir Barber is Chief Education Advisor at Pearson PLC.**

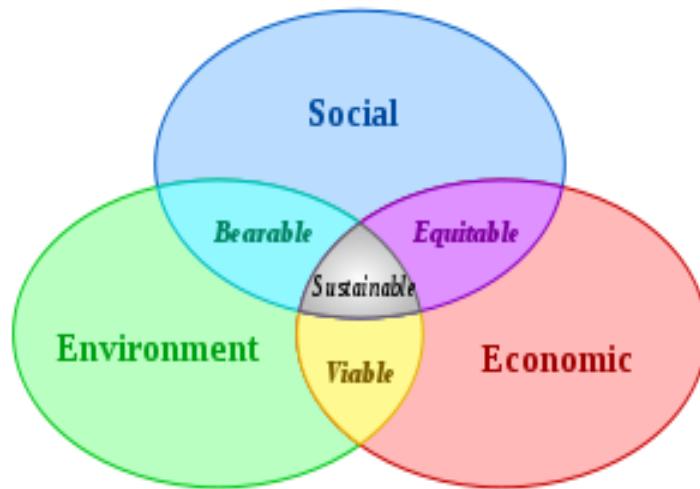
**Barber was knighted by Queen Elizabeth for education reform**



- *Deliverology 101* – written by Sir Barber. It tells how to “deliver” education reform, the “global phenomenon” - no longer to be managed by individuals or sovereign countries; it has “no more frontiers, no more barriers.”
- Of course, Sir Barber totally supports UN Agenda 21 and top-down world government.

# Common Core Teaches the “Three Es” of Agenda 21/Sustainable Development

The Three Es: Equity, Economy and Environment - all integrated and should be taught in every subject – even math.



## The Real Meaning of the Three Es

- **Equity** = Social equity or social justice - not equal justice. “Common Good” - not individual rights.
- **Economy** = redistribution of wealth, global trade, and Public / Private Partnerships (PPPs.)
- **Environment** = animals have equal rights or even more rights than humans. *“Nature or the environment is the central organizing principle for our economy and society.”* Michael Shaw

# How the Three Es are Being Implemented

Phil Caro, co-lead author of the CC math standards said:

*“The reason we have standards is for the **social justice agenda** - to make sure that all kids get enough math to have a decent opportunity.”*

Math textbooks are teaching such environmental pseudo-science as global warming.

Obama has an “Equity and Excellence Commission”

It is charged with finding “ways to restructure school finance systems to achieve **equity** in the distribution of educational resources and further student achievement and attainment.”

# Obama's "Three Es" Agenda of Common Core

Stanley Kurtz, author of *Spreading the Wealth*, CC has three Objectives:

- 1) **a politicized curriculum** that promotes leftist notions of "social justice," [and the other two Es of economy and environment]
- 2) **reducing "disparate outcomes"** between students in different districts by undercutting standards
- 3) **a redistribution of suburban education funding** to less-well-off urban schools.

## CC will End the American Dream

- If Obama's education plan goes through, it will shut of the American vision of "self-government and personal liberty."
- It will end the American dream of most young couples to educate their children as they see fit, to work hard and save so they can move to a home in the suburbs with just the sort of schools they want.

# Sir Barber Teaches “Citizens of the World” and “Earth-Oneness”

Barber teaches “every child is a citizen of the world,” and the following formula:

$$E(K+T+L)$$

(Knowledge + Thinking  
+Leadership)

multiplied by “Ethical Underpinnings.”

What are “Ethical Underpinnings?”

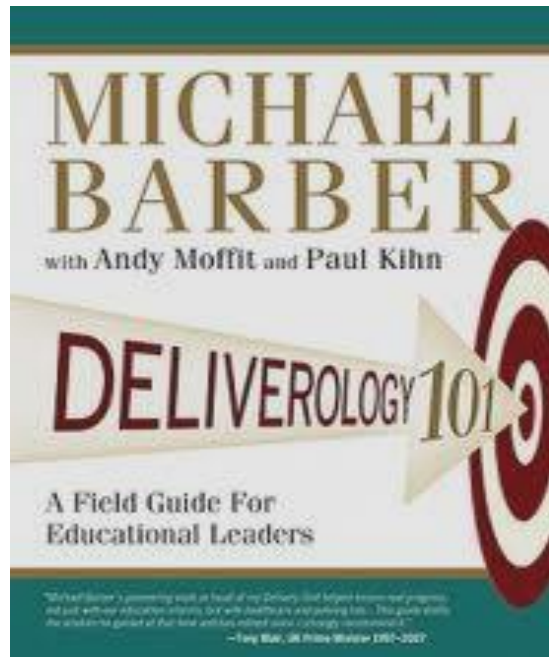
Barber states, “*Ethics is ‘shared understanding’ of earth and ‘sustainability’ that every child in every school around the world will learn.*”

“*Ethics, to Barber, have nothing to do with the supreme sanctity of human life, the idea of God, of individual liberty or the Golden Rule. Nope, it’s about the collective, the earth-oneness.*”

Christel Lane Swasey of “Three Moms Against Common Core”

# **“Whole System Revolution” - Collectivist, Globally Controlled Ed**

## **Sir Barber's Blue Print Book**



## **His Formula for Revolution**

Sir Barber spoke at a British education summit in August, 2012 and showed the following chart that reveals his mindset:

**systemic innovation**

**+ sameness of standards**

**+ structure**

**+ human capital =**

**“whole system revolution.”**

# Who is Promoting Sir Barber and his Globalist Common Core?

The Council on Foreign Relations, CFR, has long promoted global government



Barber spoke before the CFR

- He praised Common Core calling it “internationally benchmarked” and praised the CFR for their support of it:
- *“Can I congratulate the CFR for getting into this issue? I think it’s great to see education as an issue of national security and foreign policy as well as economic and domestic policy.”*



# Public/Private Partnerships – What the Gates and Pearson Foundations are all About:

## Cornering the Market in Common Core Standards

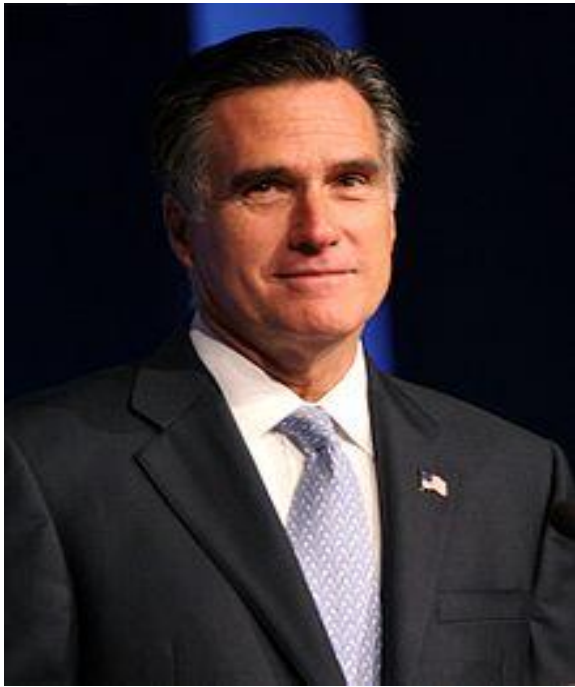
- In May of 2011, the Gates and Pearson Foundations formed a partnership to produce on-line curriculum for the Common Core standards. They also are providing the training for the teachers to go along with the curriculum.

## Pearson and Gates “invest” in schools by Forming a PPP

- They buy cheap schools in developing countries in partnership with governments and then run the schools using Pearson’s e-book, Gates computers and government funding.
- They are doing the same with charter schools in the USA.

# There is Still Hope – Prominent People are Speaking out Against Common Core

Mitt Romney: *“I don’t subscribe to the idea of the federal government • trying to push a common core on various states.”*



*... “there may be a time when the government has an agenda that it wants to promote.*

- And I’m not wild about the federal government having some kind of agenda that it then compensates States to teach their kids. I’d rather let education and what is taught State by State be determined State by State, not by the federal government.”*

# Other Prominent Voices Oppose CC

## Governor Nikki Haley S. Carolina

- ... *“challenges in education cannot be solved by increasing our dependence on federal dollars and the mandates that come with them.”*
- **The Virginia State Board of Education Refuses to Adopt Common Core** – *“It does not meet the high standards Virginia already has, and it is cost prohibitive.”*

## Governor Rick Perry of Texas

- *“I will not commit Texas taxpayers to unfunded federal obligations or to the adoption of unproven, cost-prohibitive national standards and tests.”*  
(Letter written to Arne Duncan, January 13, 2010)
- *“It would be foolish and irresponsible to place our children’s future in the hands of unelected bureaucrats and special interest groups thousands of miles away in Washington.”*

# There is Still Hope!

## **Groups are Organizing to Fight Common Core in Various States**

- Utahns Against Common Core have made progress and success in Utah. The state board voted in August to no longer be part of the consortia working on the assessments, and they will not allow the assessment test to come into the state.
- A pro-CC state superintendent of schools resigned.

## **Teachers are speaking out – the Teacher Strike in Chicago**

- They mainly were on strike against Common Core and RTTT national standards that had already been tried and failed in Chicago when Duncan was in charge of Schools
- They revealed the “high stakes” testing that seem to be designed to have the students fail. Teachers salaries can be lowered and the school can be privatized.

# Other States Fighting Common Core

## Bills or Resolutions in Legislation

- **Indiana** — enacted a resolution to urge a state board review of the CCSS.
- **Kansas**—requires a cost analysis and formal review before implementation.
- **South Dakota**— implemented a requirement of four public hearings before enactment of the standards.
- Four other states have required a formal review of the curriculum or cost analysis: California, Iowa, Maryland, and New Mexico.
- Other states had bills disapproving or rejecting the Common Core or future adoption but they failed to pass in the legislature. They are: Alaska, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, South Carolina, Oklahoma, and Washington.
- **In total 26 out of the 46 States that had originally accepted Common Core are not happy with it.**

# What Can We Do?

## Become informed/ Take Action

- Read *Common Core, A Trojan Horse for Education Reform*, pass it on to others.
- Download evidence from suggested websites , print copies and send the download links out to others,
- Counter misleading information that promotes CCSS and related issues.
- Call, write and meet with elected local, state, and national representatives and candidates.
- Contact Congress through the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.
- Write letters to the editors of newspapers and websites.
- Start a letter-writing campaign with others of like mind.
- Establish a group to speak at events and on the radio.
- If you can get nothing printed in your local newspapers, then be your own newspaper. Hand out flyers to your neighbors and ask them to join your efforts in stopping Common Core.
- Pray fervently! We need the Lord's help in fighting this huge battle!

# Conclusion

*James 3:4 – “Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm...”*



- *Just as a very small helm can turn about a great ship, it only takes one person, armed with truth and courage and willing to speak out, who can sometimes change the course of history.”*

*Orlean Koehle*