



Californians United Against Common Core

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Feb. 6, 2014

California Frameworks and Instructional Resources Division
California Department of Education
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Dear Superintendent Torlakson and State Board Members:

We, the undersigned, are writing to give you feedback on your “new frameworks” for Common Core, K-12, as you requested. It is nice that you are asking for our input, but we have done enough research to know that our public comments will make no difference whatsoever. This is a ploy called the Delphi Technique, just to make us feel good and to think that we still live in a representative government, where our viewpoint makes some kind of a difference.

We know that Common Core did not originate in our State or any State; it was written by a national cartel, which tries to give itself some legitimacy by pretending that the individual States had some input, just as you are trying to do by asking for our input.

Common Core is a top-down, big federal government education program with nationalized, one-size-fits-all, untested standards. It is copyrighted by the NGA and CCSSO who also hold the trademark for Common Core. Therefore, a State cannot really do much to change those standards (since they are copyrighted) by adding or taking away anything from the standards or curriculum. States will be allowed to change or add 15%, but that will not be on the national assessment test that all States will take, so why bother to add or change that 15%?

If you truly wanted parents’ input, you should have asked for it four years ago before you and Governor Schwarzenegger signed on to accept the standards in August 2010, sight unseen. Your asking for our input now is a little bit late and disingenuous.

Nevertheless, we are giving you are input. Rather than go through the tedious process of commenting on each “framework,” we will sum our comments up with – **we don’t want any of the frameworks, or the standards or the curriculum or the assessment. We don’t want anything to do with Common Core!** We want our State to say no to it or at least put it on hold so we can have some actual hearings about it as is going on in several other States, which have been able to pass legislation to put it on hold.

This is not your creation as it should have been with the input from local school boards and local parents – back before they were adopted in August, 2010. The standards are the final creation of David Coleman and his team of five, who were chosen by the 29-member cartel to do the actual writing. Coleman and his team, as is obvious by reading the age-inappropriate standards, had no experience as teachers in K-12 schools nor had children. One was a college teacher; the rest had never taught in any school anywhere.

In summation, these are the seven biggest objections that we have to Common Core:

1. **It is education by stealth and deception.** If it were so wonderful, why the secrecy, why have we heard nothing about it until it was a done deal? Why is it pretending to be a State Standard Initiative, when the States had nothing to do with its creation or leadership? Why did the States have to be bribed with federal grant money and bribes of waivers to sign on? Why were they even given threats of taking away Title One money if they did not?
2. **It is in violation of the 10th Amendment and 3 federal laws.** The 10th Amendment states that whatever is not enumerated in the Constitution is to be left to the States. Education is one of those. It has always been a State

issue. The three federal laws all say essentially the same thing that the federal government is not to “exercise any direction, supervision, or control over the instructional materials or curriculum of any educational institute.” Because of the FDOE giving grants to the States that signed on, funding the consortia to come up with the assessments, granting waivers or threatening to take away funds shows an enormous amount of controls over States and local districts.

3. **The standards are not higher and more rigorous.** Two experts, Sandra Stotsky and James Millgram, who were on the CC review committee, refused to sign off on the math and English Language Arts standards and have both testified how they are inferior and will not prepare students for authentic college-level work. Further, the ELA are replacing classical English literature with informational text that is mostly indoctrination with a very liberal bias.
4. **Common Core is Education without representation.** Congress never had a vote, our State legislators never had a vote until a year after the governor and you, our State Board, had already signed on; our local school boards never had a vote, and we people never had a vote.
5. **It is creating enormous costs to the States.** The estimated cost for California will be \$1.6 billion for the implementation of the curriculum, the computers, the training and the e-books. The estimated cost for the assessment is \$1.2 billion, when the STAR test was so much less. The STAR test was \$14 per student. CC assessment will be about \$200 per student. All this enormous cost for something that is really inferior and will dumb down education?
6. **It is education by and for big corporations.** Bill Gates has given over \$200 million to the writing and the implementing and spreading of CC across the nation. Why? He will be getting billions back when every child in the public schools has a computer. The Pearson foundation, that is publishing the e-books and the tests, will also be getting \$billions back.
7. **Invasive data collection and tracking of students from cradle to grave for a global workforce.** Since FERPA (Family Education Rights Protection Act) was changed by the Obama administration, it is now open season on data collection on our children and their families. Over 400 points of information will be gathered from “cradle to grave” and can be shared across State lines to other States and businesses, etc. Our children will help to serve as cogs in the wheel of a dumbed down global workforce.

For all of the above reasons, we the undersigned urge you, our State Board of Education, to say no to Common Core before it does any more harm to our State, our children, their education and their future. Join with other States who are truly listening to their parents and teachers and are putting Common Core on hold or trying to throw it out of their States.

We can go back to the good education that California had before. We can create our own standards or get rid of standards. There is no proof that they have made education better anywhere. Let teachers and school boards in local districts decide what curriculum to have and create their own tests as we used to do when California had one of the best educations in the nation and our nation was one of the tops in education in the world. Let teachers go back to teaching what they know best and teach it out of love for the subject and love for their students, not because of fear that it will be on some national test and if their students don't do well, the teacher's salary will be lowered and the school could lose its public school status.

Sincerely:

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