

Petition to Stop the Implementation of Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) 2013
Presented by Californians United Against Common Core, CUACC.org

We the following parents and residents of _____ County and _____ School District urge our elected School Board Trustees to refuse to implement CCSSI in our local schools and let teachers have the freedom to teach what they know to be tried and true methods for learning. We sign this petition opposing CCSSI for the following reasons:

I. Whereas CCSSI is Education without Representation:

1. Whereas CCSSI was never approved by Congress. The stimulus money was already there to be used however the executive branch wanted to use it. They did not need Congressional approval to fund a new education program, so they were bypassed. Many Congressmen still know nothing about it.
2. Whereas CCSSI was never approved by State legislators. Most State legislators were bypassed as well. [California State Legislators did pass AB 205 in August of 2011, but that was not approving CCSSI; it was authorizing its implementation - sight unseen - and taking away authority over curriculum development from the State School board, from local school boards, and even the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.]
3. Whereas CCSSI was never approved by our local school districts, yet they are now left holding the bag for half of the enormous costs of its implementation.
4. Whereas CCSSI is thus not a State initiative and should not be called such; it was not initiated or written by any State School Boards, nor by any local school board. They had no idea Common Core even existed until it was thrust upon them.

II. Whereas CCSSI is Taxation without Representation:

5. Whereas CCSSI is very expensive. It is costing an estimated \$16 billion for the entire nation to implement it and somewhere between \$400-900 million per individual states. A large populated State like California is expected to pay \$1.6 billion. Individual school districts are having to pay half the costs. That is way too much money to pay on something the tax payers and their elected representatives never had any say about and which has not been tested.

III. Whereas CCSSI is in Violation of Three Federal Education Laws:

6. Whereas the Department of Education Organizational Act of 1979; the General Education Provision Act and the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 that was amended by No Child Left Behind of 2001. Each says about the same thing that "The Federal Department of Education shall not be involved in developing, supervising, or controlling instructional materials or curriculum." CCSSI and its assessment tests coming in 2014 were partially developed, supervised, and will be controlled under the direction of the Federal Department of Education.
7. Whereas CCSSI was written by a national / international cartel consisting of members of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO); the National Governors' Association (NGA); and a chief education policy group that is part of the NGA. These groups were joined by members of the Obama Administration; a progressive group called Achieve; the national teacher unions – the FTA, NEA, the College Board and ACT, American College Test. The international influence comes from the Bill Gates Foundation and the Pearson Foundations, a global publishing company based in the UK that has offices in 70 other countries, where Common Core is also being promoted and implemented.
8. Whereas CCSSI is being driven by massive special interest groups and corporations – such as the Gates and Pearson Foundations - who stand to make \$billions by the schools having to purchase computers for every student in the classroom and the Pearson publication of e-books instead of text books. The Gates and Pearson Foundations have formed a partnership to do all the training of the teachers in the new learning methods. Of course, the training also costs \$millions.

IV. Whereas CCSSI Calls for Extensive, Invasive Data to be Collected on Students and Teachers:

9. Whereas the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was amended by the FDOE in Dec. 2011 to exceed the agency's statutory authority and thus allows invasive data collecting on both students and teachers. Such things as religious affiliation and political affiliations will now be collected, and who knows what else, nor do we know what will be done with that data. The collection of data on the teachers is making them afraid to speak out against Common Core, even though many do not like it and do not like being told that they can no longer use their old files or teach the tried and proven methods they have always used.

V. Whereas the CC Standards and Curriculum are not Higher and are not More "Rigorous" as Touted:

10. Whereas **math standards are being lowered**. Even though proponents of CC state that Math teachers are beginning to teach algebra in the lower grades, that is just "window dressing." The real teaching of algebra is being postponed from the 8th grade to the 9th grade, leaving no room for calculus in the senior year. Children are not being asked to memorize math facts. The teaching of geometry is going to be a confusing form that was tried and thrown out of the Soviet Union 50 years ago. **Classical English Literature is lowered** from 80% to 50% in elementary school

and down to 30% in high school. Children will just be learning how to read informational text like a computer manual. Cursive writing will no longer be taught. Experts on the review committee refused to sign off on the Common Core math and English Literature saying the standards were being lowered. (For more information go to www.cuacc.org, and to download more petitions. Call 707-539-8393 for additional information.)

Therefore, for all of the above-stated reasons, we the following signatories ask our School District Trustees to vote against the implementation of CCSSI in our school district and let our teachers be free to use their own tried and true methods without any data being collected on them or on our children:

Name	Address	Phone
(Print)		
(sign)		
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		

Copy this and give it to your local school board as well as send a copy to California Coalition Against common Core, 5850 Commerce Blvd, STE D, Rohnert Park, CA 94928. We will collect all petitions and send to the State School Board and State Legislators to let them know how many Californians do not like Common Core being imposed on us.