

Common Core:

**Something
Rotten in
Education**



AAM Common Core Team
Jenn Jones, Jaime Munns,
Darlene Eulie, Gwen M. Clark

As a Mom...
A SISTERHOOD OF MOMMY PATRIOTS

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Imagine

the following scenario:

Your children from kindergarten through high school are being taught based on a nationalized standard curriculum that was developed by complete strangers in Washington, D.C. Your school has no say so in what is being taught or how it is taught. Your state legislators had nothing to do with its implementation, and therefore your voice was never heard.

Now consider that everything your child does is being tracked. Imagine there are points of data that are being collected on your child and shared with the federal government. Data such as their medical history, disciplinary records, religious affiliation, bus stop locations and times....Imagine that even though you thought parental rights gave you the power of consent for this data to be collected and shared, in fact you really have no say in the matter.

Imagine that your local school board and your teachers have no control over the curriculum being taught in the school. Imagine that you are a homeschooler and you find out that college readiness exams such as SATs and ACTs have been changed to conform to this new nationalized curriculum being taught in the public school.

Imagine an educational system that had been commandeered by an overreaching federal government to determine what and how your children will be taught; and that it is all part of a plan to create the work force of the future. You as a parent have been removed from the equation because after all, it takes a village to raise a child...right?



Now, read back through those previous scenarios and remove the word “Imagine”. It is not hypothetical or conspiracy or something that only happens in the movies. It is real; it is happening; and it is more than likely already being implemented in your state and local school district.

What is it? Common Core Curriculum.

In case you haven’t heard about it, or if you have and you want to learn more this article is intended to give you some of the basics. As with anything else, you need to do more research and educate yourself on this topic as much as possible. If you don’t believe Common Core affects you – you are mistaken. It will eventually affect everyone on every level.

History

Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) in short, is a set of national K-12 educational standards. Right now it focuses on English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics.

In 2008, Common Core Initiative was developed by two Washington, D.C. trade based organizations – The National Governor’s Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). They worked with a progressive non-profit organization, Achieve, Inc. to develop the standards. The three organizations outlined their vision of education in a report called Benchmarking for Success. This effort was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. This is stated in the Acknowledgement section of the report.

Through 2008 and into 2009 the standards had not yet been completely drafted.

The proponents of the Common Core Initiative were determined to get the states locked into the standards as quickly as possible. In February 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus) provided the carrot to dangle in front of the states to get them to commit. An earmark of \$4.35 billion was created for states that “made significant progress” in meeting four education reform objectives. These objectives included improving state standards and improving the quality of academic assessments. A month after the Stimulus bill was passed, the Department of Education announced the Race to the Top – a competition of the states to qualify for Stimulus money.

**TWO MONTHS
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THE NGA AND CCSSO
RELEASED A DRAFT
OF THE COMMON
CORE STANDARDS.**

Race to the Top was conducted in two phases:

Phase 1 was rolled out on November 1, 2009. Applying states were required to show their commitment to Common Core. This meant the states had to commit to implementing the standards in order to be considered for the grant. This was expected without ever seeing a draft of what the standards were. This phase had a due date of January 19, 2010. Forty states plus Washington, D.C. adopted Common Core in Phase I.

In March 2010, two months after states were required to show their commitment to Common Core in order to be eligible for Race to the Top funding, the NGA and CCSSO released a draft of the Common Core Standards. Also in March, the Department of Education announced the winners of Phase I grants – Delaware and Tennessee.

In April, 2010 Phase II of the Race to the Top grant was rolled out. This phase required applicant states to show proof of steps they had taken to comply with requirements. This phase had a deadline of June 1, 2010. On June 2, 2010, a day after the deadline for Phase II, the NGA released the final draft of the K-12



Common Core Standards. States were then given an extension of the deadline until August 2, 2010, to amend their submissions to show evidence that they had adopted Common Core Standards. By Phase II, forty-seven states (this number includes Washington, D.C.) had adopted Common Core.

The winners of Phase II funding were announced on August 24, 2010: D.C., Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Rhode Island.

If a state applied for funding under the Race to the Top grant program, they were committing to Common Core Standards whether they were awarded funds or not. Due to the time constraints of the initial phase (which required the commitment to Common Core) the states were signed on to the standards either through their Departments of Education or their governor; meaning they were not reviewed, analyzed or voted on by the state legislatures.



Standards?

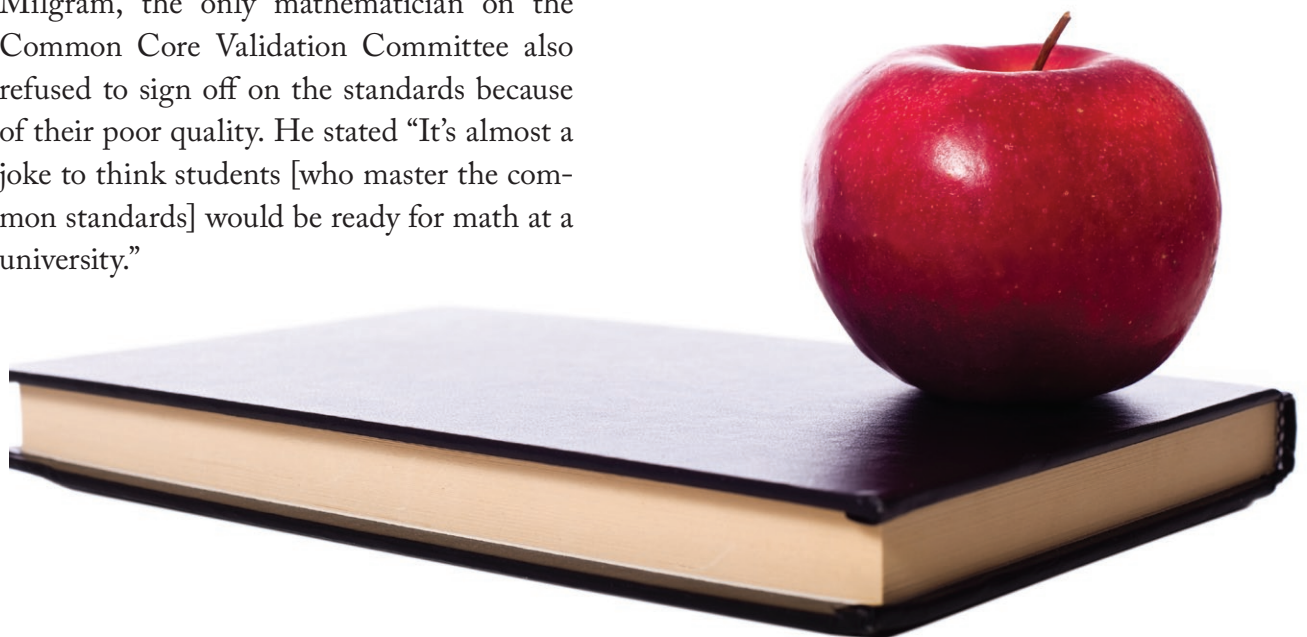
As stated earlier, Common Core Standards affect English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics at this time. The mediocrity, at best, of these standards is only one reason for concern. There are other components of Common Core that need attention and should be alarming to parents.

First, let's look at some of the curriculum standard related issues. The English Language Arts (ELA) in Common Core minimizes reading of literary classics, but rather focus on informational texts. A member of the Common Core Validation Committee, Dr. Sandra Stotsky from the University of Arkansas, refused to sign off on the ELA standards because of the poor quality, elimination of emphasis on literature and lower reading levels. The Fordham Institute, a proponent of Common Core, admitted that some states already had better standards in place than Common Core would offer and other states had standards that were as good.

In relation to mathematics, Dr. James Milgram, the only mathematician on the Common Core Validation Committee also refused to sign off on the standards because of their poor quality. He stated "It's almost a joke to think students [who master the common standards] would be ready for math at a university."

**"IT'S ALMOST A JOKE
TO THINK STUDENTS
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UNIVERSITY!"**

**DR. JAMES MILGRAM,
MATHEMATICIAN. COMMON
CORE VALIDATION COMMITTEE**



Other Concerns

If the sub-par curriculum is not enough to motivate you to research this topic further, try this one on for size: The Race to the Top funds included funding for longitudinal data systems. What is that? There is a multitude of data that is collected through various channels. Through expansion of definitions in the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), sharing of the data collected can be shared with more organizations than previously allowed. All without parental consent. For more information on data systems, you can check out the document called “Promoting Grit, Tenacity and Perseverance: Critical Factors for Success in the 21st Century.” This report was done by the U.S. Department of Education with input from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**HOMESCHOOLERS,
YOU ARE NOT IN
THE CLEAR ON THIS.
THERE ARE SEVERAL
HOMESCHOOL
CURRICULUM
COMPANIES WHO
ARE ALIGNING WITH
COMMON CORE.**

So moms—at this point are you ready to roll up your sleeves and learn more than this article, or any other for that matter, can tell you? Are you motivated enough to start educating yourselves in the details of this initiative, why it is bad for our kids, our country and dangerous to the future generations?

One thing should be made very clear: Common Core is an assault on states’ rights. It plainly states in the 10th Amendment that “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Education is not a power delegated to the federal government. It is a power of the states and of the people. Proponents of Common Core would have you believe it is an initiative led by the states, but the devil is in the details. The details show this is a top down power grab.

What can we do?

Get involved. Just like everything else, the first step is educating yourself. Research. Research. Research. Many states now have coalitions that are bringing this issue to light and getting the word out. Find out if your state does and get involved. Talk to your local school boards and superintendents – even though there is nothing specifically they can do to stop it, they still need to be aware of the issue and why it is concerning. Contact your state legislators and help bring them up to speed on Common Core and why it is bad for your state and your children. Homeschoolers, you are not in the clear on this. You also need to be involved. There are several homeschool curriculum companies who are aligning with

Common Core. When the assessments are written to match the curriculum, college entrance exams will be affected. If you are not teaching Common Core, they will make it harder for your kids to get into college.

Many people will tell you it is a conspiracy theory. Who doesn't want better education for our children to better prepare them for the future? We all want that. But it was never intended to be written by unaccountable organizations and controlled by unaccountable departments of government. This is not about improved education, but it is a matter of control. Control of what kids are learning, diminishing the role of parents and local school boards, and indoctrination of our youth.

This issue must be at the forefront for parents. The federal government is once again stepping in to take your place in the lives of your children. The collective can do a better job of raising and educating kids than parents and families – at least this is what they would like us to believe. No one can do better for a child than their parents.

So the ball is in your court. So many times you have been called upon to get involved and fight the good fight. Many of us are tired. It seems like a constant onslaught of this issue or that issue. But the fight continues and we need everyone involved and engaged. So dig in and keep going. The future of our children is at stake. Future generations are depending on us to push back against this takeover of education. For too long we have sat back and watched it happen – that time is gone.

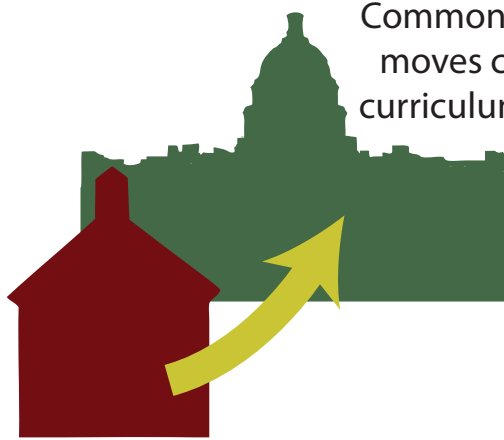
For more information on this please check out these websites:

- www.truthinamericaneducation.com
- www.stopcommoncore.com
- www.asamom.org

YouTube also has a series of five videos which give a summary overview of Common Core entitled Stop Common Core. They are well done and to the point. Share them with your neighbors, your friends, family, school boards, teachers, legislators – everyone. You are also encouraged to check out the information on *As A Mom...* on this topic. We have a lot of really knowledgeable moms out there who have been sharing information on this subject for quite some time. [↪](#)

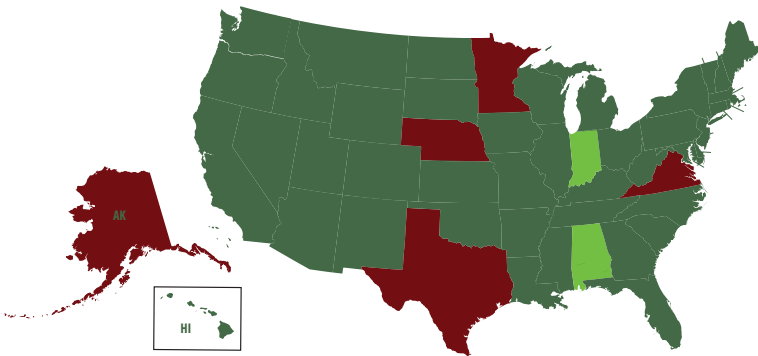


Common Core: Rotten Apples



Common Core Standards moves control of school curriculum from the local schools and states to the federal level.

- 45 States have adopted CCS
- 5 States rejected the standards
- 2 States have active repeal legislation



2009 Late 2009, states were asked to accept the standards before they were even published in March 2010

2 Members of the Common Core Validation Committee did not sign off on CCS because they considered the English and Math standards to be poor



Most states adopted CCS to be eligible for federal Race to the Top funding, or No Child Left Behind waivers.



Amount of additional content that can be added by states-won't be covered on the national tests

15%

Despite the number of standardized tests that will be implemented - CCS has not been tested and there is no proof that new standards will improve student achievement



\$350 Million

Amount from USDE funds to create standardized tests

2%

Less than 2% of students move State to State-- one of the "selling points" of CCS was that it would help these students