

March 1, 2014

Dear Senate Education Committee Members:

We are writing you to share some concerns we have as parents and educators about the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards are a list of Language Arts and Math objectives for grades K-12. In 2009, the U.S. Department of Education had a stimulus bill of 4.35 billion dollars. In order for states to receive a portion of that money, they had to agree to adopt the Common Core Standards and the National Assessments. At that time, the standards were incomplete. Vermont sent in their application to adopt the standards by January 2010 and by March 2010, a draft of the Common Core Standards was released. The state legislature was not in session when the application was due and the State of Vermont did not consult with our local Legislators or Congress.

Our goal is to stop the Common Core and to put education back in the hands of the VT citizens. The state and their citizens need to reclaim their state autonomy.

Presently, 5 states have rejected the standards (Texas, Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Virginia) and 20 other states are in the process of going through their state legislature to also reject these standards. A United States map showing this information is available at: <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-state-standards/states-fighting-back-map/>

These are some of the reasons states have rejected or are opposing the Common Core Standards:

- It is illegal because it violates the 10 Amendment of the Constitution and these 3 statutes passed by Congress:
 - 1) General Education Provisions Act
 - 2) Department of Education Organization Act
 - 3) Elementary & Secondary Education Act of 1965
- Loss of State and Local Control
- Prohibitive costs to tax payers; computerized assessments, teacher training, and curriculum materials. Tax payers will be paying the bill with no control.
- Privacy Issues – Data Gathering of Individual Students and their families through the computerized assessments. In December 2011, the FERPA regulations were revised to enable the Federal Government to collect data on individual students and share this information with third parties. Here is a link to see the lawsuit filed by the Electronic Privacy Information Center: <http://epic.org/apa/ferpa/default.html>
- The U.S. Department of Education also plans to collect physiological response data from a facial expression camera, posture analysis seat, and a wireless skin conductor. All of these items would be strapped to a child's body. Please see page 44 in the following document from the U.S. Department of Education (February 2013): <http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/technology/files/2013/02/OET-Draft-Grit-Report-2-17-13.pdf>
- All the data being collected is being set up through the Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) and is being implemented to support the collaboration between the Federal level, Departments of

Labor, and the U.S. Department of Education. This will enable the student to be tracked though school and into the workforce.

<http://www.doleta.gov/performance/workforcedatagrants09.cfm>

Please watch the following video series to answer your questions about the Common Core Standards. It is very informative and a must see! <http://americanprinciplesproject.org/preserve-innocence/2012/video-series-why-the-common-core-must-be-stopped/>

If you are interested in any additional information, here are some other helpful links:

- 1.) This link will list all the **personally identifiable** data (academic and non-academic) which will be tracked by the U.S. Department of Education. There are 400 data points including blood type, bus stop location, all health information, voting status, social security number, etc. Please see the following document for more information:
<http://nces.ed.gov/forum/datamodel/eiebrowser/techview.aspx?instance=studentElementarySecondary>
- 2.) Congressional Hearing (Dec. 2009): <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-111hrg53732/html/CHRG-111hrg53732.htm>
- 3.) April 26, 2013 Letter from 9 US Senators to US Congressional Committee on Labor, HHS, and Education: http://www.hslda.org/docs/news/2013/Harkin_Moran_Letter_April_2013.pdf
- 4.) April 30, 2013 Letter from 34 US Representatives to Education Sec. Duncan:
http://www.hslda.org/docs/news/2013/CommonCore_Duncan_FINAL.PDF

We need a bill to create our own state standards and another one to protect student privacy. The parents, teachers, administrators, and local school boards should have control of their school districts. Please contact your state and federal legislators with your concerns <http://www.leg.state.vt.us/>. We need to regain local control.

Sincerely,

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