

The adoption of Common Core Standards makes me angry. To be told that my children have to now learn in a new style, which has been developed by non-educators and pushed by the government, infuriates me. My children are not guinea pigs. This is the Land of the Free, of opportunity. People still come here, legally or not, for a better life, including education, for their children. Why on earth are we aligning our curriculum with what other countries are doing? Why are we allowing private interest groups to dictate what and how we teach our children? Global sustainability? Total nonsense. There are three federal statutes: The General Education Provision Act, the Department of Education Act, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, that give states, not federal government, control over education. These acts also prohibit the Department of Education from influencing choice of textbooks or instructional materials and prohibits their control and administration of curriculum. So, it is not only illegal, but also unconstitutional, for the federal government to use our tax dollars to come up with a curriculum and to pay textbook companies and testing companies to align to these standards.

Common Core has been adopted secretly. Many parents still don't know about it! As a child, I was taught if you have nothing to hide, then don't worry about what you're doing. Efforts have been made to squash parental questioning of Common Core. Why? Because there is a hidden agenda in it. Common Core Standards were concocted by non-educators and when educators were asked to be on the review committee, educators would not sign off on the standards. Repeat: EDUCATORS would NOT sign off on the standards. Why? Because they are inferior to what was currently our standards.

I understand trying to improve education. I understand trying to help children at a disadvantage gain a better education. Give the schools that are struggling some academic help. Don't insist the nation follow an inferior set of curricula. These standards, along with the horrible testing that goes with it, have been rolled out. Schools have to now buy new textbooks. How does that help the district with no money to begin with? Race To the Top money was given to states, but the states had to accept the Common Core Standards before they were even done being formulated! Do you buy a car without seeing it? Do you have medical procedures done without researching them? Do you accept a job without knowing your duties? NO. Do you sell your children's future to the government under the guise of education? YES.

I have watched teachers this year be completely overwhelmed by the new standards and what happens? They teach to the test. They don't teach in a way that is custom for their class and may actually benefit the students best. They don't have time to do so. They have to be sure these kids pass these new tests, or they may lose their jobs! How can you even think an educator who has been teaching long enough to have been my teacher and now my child's teacher should lose his/her job because of a teacher evaluation based on one year's worth of substandard curriculum? Teachers are to spark interest and help dreams come true. They can't do that if they are bogged down with tests and data collecting.

Please consider stopping implementation of Common Core Standards and the teacher evaluations that go along with it until an independent evaluation can be made to determine if this is the right course of action for our children's future. Only about 10% of education money comes from the federal government anyway. This is our state. These are our children. Be an example to the country.

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