

## Testimony on Common Core

Advocates of Common Core like to claim it is a set of standards created by the National Governors' Association and the States. Nothing could be further from the truth. That is simply a façade to look presentable as the origins and agenda of this program would not be acceptable to the majority of American parents.

The underlying concept is "Sustainable Development," a vague term which became popular in 1987 but institutionalized by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. They advocated 4 areas needing to be controlled: 1) Social and Economic, including consumption, health, population growth, and population settlement . 2) Resource Management, including biotechnology, the environment, and radioactive waste. 3) Strengthening the Role of Major Groups, including women, children, third world citizens, etc. 4) Means of Implementation, including science, education, financial, and technology transfers. The entire program was called Agenda 21. The UN's International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development declared 2005 -2015 the decade of education for Agenda 21 and UNESCO was charged with its implementation.

Nowhere does it say who or what group will have the power to manage these dictates once implemented but it is clear from their text and the constant use of the term "globalization" that they envision a one-world government without nation-states, individual freedom, or even the individual as important entities.

In 2004 Bill Gates signed a contract with UNESCO to create a global education system based on Agenda 21. He has contributed over \$100 million to this effort (but will make many times that much when computers are placed in every classroom, part of the Common Core requirements.) The National Governors Association (a trade organization) and the Council of Chief State School Officers were asked to work together for the purpose of developing this new education system in the U.S. This was called the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The Council of Chief State School Officers was supposed to be one of the groups writing the Standards after their states had signed on. Their goal was to transform education and change state education policies and practices. In fact, their contribution was limited to suggestions. The NGA and the CCSSO was joined by a national progressive group called Achieve, and members of the Obama Administration. The latter two were actually responsible for the Standards. Much of the Common Core Standards were written by leftist Linda Darling-Hammond, Stanford education professor, a close friend of Bill Ayers (the Communist leader of the "Weather Underground.") The Standards were written behind closed doors with no input from teachers, parents, or other than those appointed. Phil Daro, a co-author of the math standards said "The reason we have standards is for the social justice agenda..."

Sir Michael Barber is Chief Education Advisor at Pearson, the publishing company, with its affiliates, that produces most of the textbooks for CC. His version of CC in England is called Deliverology. In 2000 British students were 7<sup>th</sup> in the world in literacy. After years on Deliverology, British students tested 17<sup>th</sup> in 2006 – 2008. . Achieve Inc. has long partnered with Pearson and also co-authored Barber’s Deliverology. Its failure in England was obviously not considered when the Standards were being written here.

It should be noted that states were told they must commit to the CC Standards before they were even written, if they wanted to be eligible for Race to the Top Funds. It should also be noted that no state held public hearings or even had a legislative vote on the adoption of CC. In CT the Governor’s committee that approved these Standards, sight unseen, is an appointed body. There was no input from parents, teachers, or professionals.

The influences on this new education system are not what most of us would want for our children. As far back as 1989 Dr. Shirley McCune, Senior Director of the Mid-Continental Regional Educational Laboratory, declared in a speech to the National Governor’s Association that the goal of education is the transformation of society. She also said facts and information (knowledge?) are not the purpose of education. UNESCO’s website states that “education is the primary agent for transformation to sustainable development.”

In summary, the Common Core Standards, curriculum, and tests are not designed for a rigorous, quality education, despite the claims. Instead they are based on a political agenda promoting a one-world government having control over every aspect of human life. Not only are they dumbing down education (see tests in Kentucky after 2 years on a pilot CC program), but they are preparing children to be obedient citizens of this new world government. If this sounds absurd, read the textbooks such as: The Bill of Rights in Today’s World; The Challenge of Governance; and We the People. Consistently they denigrate our founding documents, substitute United Nations determined “rights” for our unalienable rights, and teach that government (one-world?) has absolute authority over its citizens. This is not our heritage. These are not our values. Common Core MUST be stopped before we raise a generation of robots instead of a generation of free, well educated Americans.

Linda Lavelle  
38 Aspen Mill Rd.  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
(203) 438-2914

