

You MUST Stop Common Core!!

Dear Legislator,

I am here to respectfully, but firmly state that I and my family oppose the Common Core standards in no uncertain terms and that we will hold you, as our elected member of the legislature, personally responsible for the academic damage and high costs that these untested, never used standards will impose on us and the rest of the citizens of Florida. Here are just a few of the many reasons why we oppose Common Core:

- 1) **DECREASED ACADEMIC QUALITY** – Despite the rhetoric coming from Commissioner Bennett, who lost his election in Indiana due to his support for Common Core, and groups that have a vested financial interest in the imposition of these standards, they are NOT rigorous. Four members of the Common Core validation committee refused to sign off on the final version of the standards because:
 - No data was ever provided that Common Core is as rigorous as the standards of other high performing countries.
 - According to Dr. James Milgram, the only mathematician on the committee, the math standards will put students more than two years behind their international counterparts
 - According to Dr. Sandra Stotsky, a nationally respected standards expert in English, the Common Core standards are at a 7th grade level and will result in “fewer opportunities for students to acquire the general academic vocabulary needed for college work”
- 2) **EDUCATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION** – The standards were adopted without public hearing by the appointed State Board of Education. No legislator or county school board member voted on these standards or even really understands what is in them or how they will affect our children.
- 3) **LOSS OF LOCAL CONTROL** – The standards are copyrighted by Washington DC trade groups funded by the federal government and the Gates Foundation. They were required to be adopted word for word. The federal government is paying for and overseeing the development of the national tests and model curriculum. Although theoretically, districts can choose their own curriculum, given that the high stakes testing will determine district funding, student graduation, and teacher pay and tenure, it is far more likely that teachers and districts will choose this federally funded model curriculum, resulting in a de facto national curriculum.
- 4) **DATA TRACKING** – A state longitudinal database was required both by the stimulus bill and Race to the Top. The language of SB 878 requires that the State of Florida align its database to the National Center for Education Statistics data elements and provide individual data on workforce outcomes. For the Department of Education to say that there is no data tracking is not aligned with reality.
- 5) **ENSNARING PRIVATE AND HOME SCHOOLS** – Although nothing in any law currently says that private and home schools must use Common Core, Governor Scott said that he wants all voucher students attending private schools to take the state tests, which soon will be aligned to Common Core. There are plans to align the college entrance exams to the Common Core. These decisions will severely limit the freedom and flexibility of private and home schooled students to pursue an education outside of the Common Core.

There are no more important matters to me than the education and futures of my children. Your decision will directly affect my willingness to support you in the next election. Please do the right thing and stop Common Core.

Sincerely,

Signature _____

Address _____

Email _____