

# Key Points on Common Core Standards

## What is the Common Core?

Educators have described it as No Child Left Behind on steroids! In layman's terms, the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) is a set of national K-12 standards developed primarily by a nonprofit called Achieve, Inc., in Washington, D.C. under the auspices of the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The Common Core was developed without state legislative authority. Common Core Standards have never been tested in schools only researched based.

## Common Core: Centralized Educational Control Destroys Federalism

By hooking states into the Common Core with Race-to-the-Top grant funds and linking the Common Core to No Child Left Behind waivers, the federal government is acting as the "enforcer" to herd states into the "one-size-fits-all" Common Core -- in spite of the fact that three federal laws prohibit the federal government from guiding the educational curriculum of the states. Not only the U.S. Constitution, but state constitutions maintain that education is a power reserved to the states and their citizens. Yet, the Common Core can not be changed by state legislatures or state school boards.

## Common Core: Education Without Representation or Parental Input

Taxpayers pay hundreds of billions in state and local taxes per year for K-12 education. Yet, the Common Core guarantees taxpayers and parents NO VOICE in math and English content standards of their states and thus no control over what children will learn in these subjects. In fact, most states agreed to implement the Common Core before the standards were even released, all without state legislative approval or even public hearings.

## Common Core: Intrusive Data Tracking

The Common Core ensures that the states build expensive high-tech systems that will track student performance and other personal, emotional and biometric data and provide that information to the federal government without parental consent.

"Hopefully, some day, we can track children from preschool to high school and from high school to college and college to career." - U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, from a June 8, 2009 speech

## Common Core: Exorbitant Price Tag

The unfunded mandates associated with the Common Core are open-ended in areas such as professional development, new textbooks and instructional materials, testing, and data-tracking systems. A recent study from the Pioneer Institute shows implementation will cost \$40 million to Montana and \$15.8 billion for nation-wide costs.

## Common Core Standards lead to a National Curriculum

National standards and tests are already leading to a national curriculum. Publishers are creating textbooks right now in order to align them with the requirements of Common Core Standards. There are only 2 federally funded assessments companies for Common Core Standards. So, as publishers align with the testing requirements of only 2 companies, there will be very little to choose from in curriculum.

## Where Things Stand

**In the Nation**-Only a few states have turned a cold shoulder to the federal grants and waivers requiring Common Core.

- Texas, Nebraska, and Alaska refused to participate.
- Indiana passed a Common Core Pause bill requiring public hearings and a fiscal impact study
- South Carolina has legislation pending to pull out of the Common Core supported by the Governor.
- Virginia has pulled out of the Common Core
- Minnesota has refused to sign on to the math portion.
- Utah has withdrawn from the assessment consortium aligned with the Common Core and is holding legislative hearings on withdrawing from the Common Core.
- Alabama has withdrawn the assessment consortium aligned with Common Core.
- South Dakota has slowed down the implementation of the Common Core with the passage of a bill that requires public hearings around the state.
- 16 States have some legislative action going on to reject Common Core

**In Montana**- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau and the Board of Public Education adopted Common Core Standards in Nov. 2011, without public input, legislative review or a **cost analysis**. Montana is still in the early implementation of Common Core Standards. Montana school districts are trying to assess the huge costs to implement Common Core and find the funding to cover those costs.

## Common Core Standards in Montana

**Illegally adopted** – Violation of 2 Montana Laws MCA 20-7-101 and MCA 2-3-201

**No Public Input** - Adopted by Office of Public Instruction and Board of Public Education **without** public input

**No Cost Analysis**- Adopted by Office of Public Instruction and Board of Public Education **without** a cost analysis

**No Legislative Input** - Adopted by Office of Public Instruction and Board of Public Education when Legislature was out of session

**No Local Control** - A state must accept 100% of the Common Core standards. It may add 15% content but may not subtract anything

**Untested**-Common Core Standards have never been tested, research-based only

**Data Tracking and profiling** our children with Montana's Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System that can be linked to Federal Systems

### Questions about Common Core Standards

#### Are Common Core Standards superior to previous Montana Standards?

No, an analysis report comparing Common Core Standards to Montana Standards submitted by MT Office of Public Instruction states an 81% match of standards in math and English. The report also states in its conclusion on the math standards “implementing either Montana Standards or the CCSS will provide the learning students need throughout K-12.”

MT Office of Public Instruction on 4/21/2010 stated in an FAQ on Race to the Top Funding “We have convened instructional leaders from around the state to review the draft releases of both the Career and College Ready Standards and the K-12 English/Language Arts and Mathematics Standards. We have conducted state-level alignment processes along the way and have found that the present Learner Standards in Montana already meet or exceed the Common Core Standards for both Career and College Ready and K-12 English/Language Arts and Mathematics Standards”

#### Comments from members of the Common Core Validation Committee

English Language Arts (ELA) Standards – Dr. Sandra Stotsky of the University of Arkansas served on the Common Core Validation Committee but refused to sign off on the ELA standards because of poor quality, empty skill sets, the de-emphasis on literature, and low reading levels, such as 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels for 12 grade students.

Math Standards – Dr. James Milgram of Stanford University, the only mathematician on the Common Core Validation Committee, refused to sign off, stating, “It’s almost a joke to think students [who master the common standards] would be ready for math at a university.”

Jason Zimba -Lead writer Common Core mathematics standards, told the Massachusetts Board of Education in March 2010 that college readiness in mathematics means readiness for admission to a **non-selective community college**.

### Questions Need Answers

Why did we change from proven Montana Standards to the untested Common Core Standards?

Why was I not aware of the change to Common Core Standards? And Why was I not able to give public input?

If the parents or taxpayer, are unhappy with the standards how we can amend them?

Can we see the scientific studies upon which the academic foundations of Common Core rest?

Is realigning the local education system to the National Common Core Standards the best investment of scarce educational resources?

Why change to Common Core Standards and incur all these new costs when Montana Standards meet or exceed Common Core Standards?

Why was there no Legislative review of Common Core Standards since it requires massive funding to implement?

What are the costs of new textbooks, technology, teaching training and assessment testing? Can our “under funded schools” afford the costs to implement Common Core Standards?

Where will the funding come from? Future mill levy?

Why are they data mining our students from preschool to age 20? Who has access to student’s information?

Can I opt my child out of the data tracking system (P20w Longitudinal System) and what is the process to do that?

Can we halt the implementation of Common Core Standards until we get answers?

More info visit [www.stopcommoncore.com](http://www.stopcommoncore.com) Facebook “Stop Common Core in Montana” Sign petition to Stop CC at [gopetition.com/petitions/stop-common-core-montana.html](http://gopetition.com/petitions/stop-common-core-montana.html)