

Stop Common Core Illinois

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Rotten to the (Common) Core part 2 #stopcommoncore

Posted on January 24, 2014

by Chris Mercogliano,

The soiled underbelly of the Common Core State Standards is just beginning to come into view. For starters, according to an ongoing series of posts by investigative blogger Mercedes Schneider, dating back to October, 2013, the idea that the Common Core State Standards, unlike the old NCLB version, were developed at the state level through a transparent process involving teachers, principals, parents, and education experts is a complete sham. The CCSS were actually “prefabricated,” as Schneider puts it, under another name in 2004 by Achieve, Inc., an allegedly independent, nonpartisan, and not-for-profit education reform organization that in reality is none of the above.

It turns out that Achieve is closely aligned with the American Legislative Exchange Council, a right-wing political organization well known for its efforts to privatize public education and bring about other “market-based” education reforms. ALEC has been one of Achieve’s major funders since day one; and, in turn, according to a flow chart of CCSS corporate connections compiled by education activist and journalist Morna McDermott and published in Truthout on 1/10/2014, the majority of ALEC’s funds come from Charles and David Koch, billionaire oil tycoons whose far-reaching political agenda includes privatizing public education and defunding public schools.

Following CCSS’s far from transparent money trail, Schneider and McDermott also uncovered a deeply embedded economic agenda. The web of financial interconnections is far too tangled to detail here; but a closer look at the business dealings of the three lead authors of the final CCSS language gives us an excellent tip-of-the-iceberg view of the extent to which CCSS, in Schneider’s words, is little more than a “multi-layered business deal.” Moreover, it is one that stands to profit the education industry at levels that will make the NCLB bonanza look, getting back to Chicken Little, like poultry feed.

In 2009 David Coleman, Jason Zimba, and Sue Pimentel formed the not-for-profit corporation Student Achievement Partners for the sole purpose of drafting and promoting CCSS. All three had already been profiting handsomely from the standards movement for years. For instance, in 2004 Coleman and Zimba founded the Grow Network, an education technology company that provides customized test reports and instructional materials to schools and families, and then sold it to McGraw-Hill later in 2009 for a figure rumored by insiders to be as high as \$14 million.

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School Rankings Prove The Common Core Initiative Does Not Improve Education Quality #stopcommoncore

Posted on [January 24, 2014](#)

The Free Patriot -

Education Week came out with their rankings of the states with the best and worst schools. They make their ratings on a variety of factors which include K-12 achievement; standards, assessment and accountability; the teaching profession; school finance; students' chances for long-term success; and transitions and alignment.

The top schools were (descending order) Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont, Minnesota, Florida, Pennsylvania, Washington, Colorado, Virginia.

The worst schools (worst to least worst) were Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, West Virginia, Alabama, Alaska, South Carolina, South Dakota, Michigan, Oklahoma.

One conclusion from the study has damning ramifications for the Common Core Initiative. The conclusion is that standards have almost no impact on student achievement.

There is a surprising lack of correlation between the state's K-12 achievement and the presence of policies Education Week identified as important. Five of the 10 states with the best achievement scores are among the worst in the country for setting standards and using assessment techniques that are most likely to be effective, according to Education Week. Meanwhile, Louisiana and West Virginia are the second- and third-best states for standards, but they are both among the five worst states in student achievement.

It is particularly damning because states like Mississippi, Louisiana, and New Mexico have been the most faithful at implementing the Common Core. They are three years into implementing the Common Core, yet they are at the bottom. Massachusetts has paused Common Core, and they have been at the top of education ranks for many years due to result of policies put into place by Sandra Stotsky and others in the late 1990s. In addition, Minnesota only adopted the English Language Arts standards, and rejected the Common Core math. New Hampshire's largest school district rejected the Common Core and many school districts in that state have followed. Virginia has also rejected the Common Core.

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What States Have Pulled Out of their Common Core Assessment Consortium?

Posted on [January 24, 2014](#)

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Truth in American Education -

We wanted to provide a complete list in one location of all the states that have pulled out of either Smarter Balanced or PARCC, as well as, states that are considering it.

States that have pulled out of their Assessment Consortium:

1. Utah (Smarter Balanced) – http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/mobile/54627081_68/utah-state-standards-consortium.html.csp
2. Oklahoma (PARCC) – <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-assessments/oklahoma-pulls-out-of-parcc/> (the Tulsa World article is no longer on the website).
3. Georgia (PARCC) – <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/breaking-news/georgia-decides-against-offering-common-core-stand/nYzDr/>
4. Alabama (Smarter Balanced & PARCC – they were an advisory state) – http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2013/02/alabama_withdraws_from_both_te.html
5. Indiana (PARCC) – <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-assessments/pence-pulls-indiana-out-of-parcc/> and <http://indianapublicmedia.org/stateimpact/2013/07/29/gov-pence-signals-intent-to-withdraw-from-common-core-consortium-parcc/> As of December PARCC still had them listed though – <http://hoosiersagainstcommoncore.com/indianas-withdraw-parcc-real-show/>
6. Kansas (Smarter Balanced) – <http://m.cionline.com/news/2013-12-10/kansas-opts-create-its-own-common-core-tests>
7. Pennsylvania (Smarter Balanced & PARCC) – http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2013/06/pennsylvania_signals_departure_from_test_consortia.htm
8. Alaska (Smarter Balanced) – http://www.newsminer.com/news/education/alaska-changes-school-testing-consortium/article_05509298-7d77-11e3-9606-001a4bcf6878.html
9. Florida (PARCC) - <http://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-assessments/rick-scott-pulls-florida-out-of-parcc/>

States Actively Considering Withdrawing

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Governors Race to the Drop (of Common Core) #stopcommoncore

Posted on [January 23, 2014](#)

Truth in American Education -

by Shane Vander Hart,

I have to admit. I didn't coin that title; credit goes to Heather Crossin who coined it in an email. We have had a couple of Governors make some statements about the Common Core as state legislatures go into session.

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Republican Governor Mike Pence of Indiana in his state of the state address last week said: “Hoosiers have high expectations when it comes to Indiana schools. That’s why Indiana decided to take a time-out on national education standards,” Pence said. “When it comes to setting standards for schools, I can assure you, Indiana’s will be uncommonly high. They will be written by Hoosiers, for Hoosiers and will be among the best in the nation.”

After the address Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz said “We always adopt our own standards. It just so happens that in 2010 the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core as its standards. We are reviewing those standards. I’m pretty confident there are going to be changes to those standards. And Indiana will be adopting a new set of standards.”

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Will Obama mention Common Core in the State of the Union? #stopcommoncore

Posted on [January 23, 2014](#)

Fordham Institute -

The rumor around the water coolers in D.C. is that President Obama plans to mention the Common Core State Standards in his State of the Union Address next week—for the third year running. He should reconsider, for three reasons.

First, it will feed the narrative that Common Core is, in fact, a federal takeover of public education.

Many Common Core opponents I debate on talk-radio shows or speak with in person eventually get around to admitting they have very few problems with the standards themselves and think they are better than what their state had in place before (we think so too). But, as [Andy Smarick](#) wrote earlier this week,

They are skeptical of big promises and big government. They are skeptical of centralized solutions. And they are skeptical of enlightened national leaders who pat them on their heads.

Remember, they were told by such enlightened leaders that if they liked their insurance, they could keep it. They are once bitten, twice shy.

Why would an administration that has already insulted Common Core opponents give them another reason to claim that this is true?

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Parents homeschooling children in response to Common Core standards #stopcommoncore

Posted on [January 21, 2014](#)

KAKE.com

WICHITA, Kan. – Just mention the Common Core and you’ll get a reaction from parents Justin and Jennifer Dahlmann.

“We both get a little tight in the chest,” Justin said.

The Dahlmann’s have four girls ranging in age from 2 to 9. They say they noticed the kids were beginning to struggle in school recently. They didn’t know why.

Then, Justin, a former educator, says they found out the new Common Core math and English standards had been implemented at their children’s private school.

“Our own kids were taking these standards that are driving the curriculum and we didn’t know anything about it,” Justin said. “That’s when we started doing the research on it and realized how overbearing it was.”

They say the standards are making education more confusing rather than helping students to think more critically, as supporters claim.

The Dahlmann’s are among a growing number of parents across the nation who have decided to homeschool their children in response to the implementation of those standards.

“We’ve said, ‘As soon as you drop the standards, we’ll put our kids right back in there,’” Justin said.

Kansas is one of 46 states that have adopted the standards. Proponents say educators from those states worked together several years ago to come up with a unified approach to what every student across the nation should know in English and math.

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The Common Core Gold Rush #stopcommoncore

Posted on [January 21, 2014](#)

The Tribune Papers Inc. -

by Michelle Malkin,

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The Common Core gold rush is on. Apple, Pearson, Google, Microsoft and Amplify are all cashing in on the federal standards/testing/textbook racket. But the EduTech boondoggle is no boon for students. It's more squandered tax dollars down the public school drain.

Even more worrisome: The stampede is widening a dangerous path toward invasive data mining.

According to the Silicon Valley Business Journal, the ed tech sector "is expected to more than double in size to \$13.4 billion by 2017." That explosive growth is fueled by Common Core's top-down digital learning and testing mandates. So: Cui bono?

In North Carolina, the Guilford County public school district withdrew 15,000 Amplify tablets last fall. Pre-loaded with Common Core apps and part of a federal \$30 million Race to the Top grant program, the devices peddled by News Corp. and Wireless Generation were rendered useless because of defective cases, broken screens and malfunctioning power supplies.

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