

2976

Cooper, Kathy

RECEIVED

IRRC

**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:41 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Clarinda

**Last Name:** Knechel-Shoup

**Address:**

**Email:** [Mom2clk@aol.com](mailto:Mom2clk@aol.com)

**Subject:** PA Common Core

**Message:**

Implementing Common Core standards in PA will be bad for PA students in the long run. PA parents and local school boards need to be able to have more say over what standards they want for their students. We need less federal control over our schools, not more. How does the state of PA plan to pay for the implementation of Common Core? Higher taxes? Please say NO to Common Core!

**Cooper, Kathy**

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**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 5:04 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** JoAnne

**Last Name:** Lee

**Address:**

**Email:** [leejwd24@verizon.net](mailto:leejwd24@verizon.net)

**Subject:** REJECT COMMON CORE

**Message:**

PLEASE REJECT COMMON CORE FOR PENNSYLVANIANS. Taking away local control of education is a constitutional issue, 10th amendment. We do not want the bureaucrats in Washington dictating how, what & why we teach our children here at home. It is our responsibility! This is an unfunded mandate. Who knows how much it will cost Penna. We, here at the local level, need to be in control of our education costs. Please do not let the Federal government take over our schools. Most sincerely, Mrs. Lee

**Cooper, Kathy**

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**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:01 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Daniel

**Last Name:** bierzonski

**Address:** 232 glenn road

**Email:** [cbierzonski@verizon.net](mailto:cbierzonski@verizon.net)

**Subject:** Common Core State Standards

**Message:**

In my opinion as a professional who hires new graduates to work in the architecture & design business, the ones coming out of colleges today are not prepared to enter the workplace without considerable assistance from the employer. It's a lean, mean market out there - workers have to hit the ground running, not be held by the hand as we teach them what is useful in the workplace. Why institute education standards that will make college grads even less competitive in the workplace? I say NO to instituting Common Core in PA.

**Cooper, Kathy**

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**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:45 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Kate

**Last Name:** Buzin

**Address:** 105 Somers Drive Downingtown PA 19335

**Email:** [katharinebuzin@yahoo.com](mailto:katharinebuzin@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** Common Core

**Message:**

So many things have changed at my school this year---and not for the better. My teachers are so stressed out. I am not learning as much and something just feels very different. I feel like teachers do not have as much time to spend teaching and it is hurting so many people. It is very stressful. Please stop Common Core. It isn't fair to teachers or students!

**Cooper, Kathy**

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**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 8:46 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Sarah

**Last Name:** Buzin

**Address:** 105 Somers Drive Downingtown PA 19335

**Email:** [sarah\\_buzin@yahoo.com](mailto:sarah_buzin@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** Common Core

**Message:**

So many things have changed at my school this year---and not for the better. My teachers are so stressed out. I am not learning as much and something just feels very different. I feel like teachers do not have as much time to spend teaching and it is hurting so many people. It is very stressful. Please stop Common Core. It isn't fair to teachers or students!

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Cooper, Kathy

**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:02 PM 2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Penny

**Last Name:** Kern

**Address:** 365 Carlton Road

**Email:** [bonrose2@verizon.net](mailto:bonrose2@verizon.net)

**Subject:** Common Core

**Message:**

How Common Core is Slowly Changing My Child Posted on October 2, 2013 by Mrs Momblog A Letter to Commissioner King and the New York State Education Department: I have played your game for the past two years. As an educator, I have created my teaching portfolio with enough evidence so I can prove that I am doing my job over the course of the school year. I am testing my students on material that they haven't yet learned in September, and then re-testing them midway through the year, and then again at the end of the year to track and show their growth. Between those tests, I am giving formative assessments. I am taking pictures of myself at community events within my district to prove that I support my school district and the community. I am teaching using the state-generated modules that you have created and assumed would work on all students, despite learning style, learning ability, or native language. I am effectively proving that I am worthy of keeping my job and that my bachelors and masters degrees weren't for naught. I have adapted, just as all teachers across the state have, because that's what we do. We might not agree, we might shake our head at the amount of time creative instruction has turned into testing instruction, but we play the game. Today, things got really personal. Today I saw just how this Common Core business is affecting kids. Not my kids in my classroom; I know how it's affecting them and I am doing the best that I can to make this as painless as possible on them. Today, my third grade son came home an angry, discouraged kid because of school. On the contrary, my oldest son is doing pretty well with the Common Core. He's had some difficulties, but for the most part he's just rolling with it and we're doing OK. But my younger son is not my older son; which just proves that this one-size-fits-all curriculum that you are throwing at these elementary kids is bull. That's right, NYS, I call bull. When my eight year old boy, who loves to read to his little sister and is excited to go to back to school come July of every summer, calls himself dumb because he is bringing home failing test grades, then this has turned personal. My son isn't dumb, Commissioner King. He works hard to learn, he writes stories and songs, builds entire football stadiums out of Legos in record time, and he can explain how to divide in his own words. He. Is. Not. Dumb. But when he gets consistently failing grades on the module assessments, what message do you think he's getting? These module assessments, sir, that have words like 'boughten' on them and the children have to infer what 'boughten' means. Did you know that boughten is no longer used as a form of the verb to buy? According to the grammarist.com website, boughten is as foreign to modern language as the word thou. "Boughten is an

archaic participial inflection of the verb to buy. It was once a fairly common colloquial form—it was used to describe something bought instead of homemade—and it still appears occasionally, but it is widely seen as incorrect and might be considered out of place in formal writing” So, when my son is faced with answering questions on outdated language, on topics such as a ‘sorrel mare’ and the reading passages take place in foreign war-torn lands, when these children haven’t even mastered the basics of their own country yet, what do expect him to feel like? Do you expect him to feel like he’s just on the road to become college and career ready, which is the basis of the common core, and these challenges will only make him stronger? No, sir, I’ll tell you what it does. It beats him down. It discourages him. It exhausts him. It makes him dread going to school and then lash out in anger at the nightly homework that is associated with these common core modules. It is turning him off of school and if this trend continues, he will be far from college and career ready because he will want nothing to do with college. I understand that we want to compete globally in the area of education. High school and college students should absolutely be challenged and learn to become a valuable, contributing member to their chosen career. Attributes such as creativeness, leadership, self-directedness, and being a team player are all skills that our next generation need to possess. But let’s work backwards: our high school teachers signed up for this. We can get our kids college and career ready; and if we don’t, shame on us. Our goal as high school teachers is send productive citizens into the world. Some years are better than others. Some kids have the advantage of supportive homes, while many do not. But we know where they need to be, and if our colleges and universities are unhappy with the product they are receiving then the communication between the the high schools and post-secondary schools needs to improve. We don’t need to throw it on the elementary teachers and students. No, those teachers need to instill a love of school so when children get to our middle and high schools they are not burnt out. They are encouraged, excited, confident, and motivated. Creating modules that are a scripted nightmare for both the teacher and student is not the answer. You are ruining children. You are killing their spirit. You are making them believe they are dumb because they can’t multiply and divide on the exact day that the module says they should be multiplying and dividing. You are creating a generation of disengaged children who now feel insufficient. This mom is angry. This educator is pessimistic. This state is in trouble.

Sincerely, Mrs. Momblog My comments: Wow! Thanks for posting. Just had a debate with the father in law last night about this exact subject. This mom said the exact same thing I was telling him. Or trying to tell him. I will share this post because it has hit the nail on the head for me. I had no idea what CommonCore was until they had that meeting the other night to explain it, which I could not attend. Now it is everywhere. Parents talking about it. Now I have a name to call it when I am degrading the education system I so hate now. Finally. Thank you for sharing. I now know I am not an advocate for the CommonCore. Now I know why in one neighborhood alone I hear so many parents talking about their children struggling in school, why 1st graders don't want to get on the school bus everyday. It is all starting to make SENSE to me NOW. After 3 years of complaining about it. Why is my kindergartner having to learn 2nd grade curriculum? Why is my 1st grader doing what I did in 3rd grade...OMG, it is...wow. It took for my kid to hit 2nd grade to find out about Common Core and years of struggling with why I hate having to send my kids to school when they didn't want to go. School is no longer enjoyable. I loved elementary school....when I went to school. What happened to drawing the kids in to help them to want to learn? To enjoy the soaking up of knowledge. They learn new things everyday but are not given the chance to figure it out because they - learn something NEW everyday. My 2nd grader has been in school for less than one month. They started on page 1 in math and are now on page 125. What sense does that make? Ask yourself this: as an adult, would you want to have to learn all that these kids have to in one day? I don't understand half the math problems my kids bring home....if it takes me an hour to sit and read and learn this stuff just so I can help my kids with the homework in one night...and by hour two we BOTH are now frustrated cause NEITHER of us understand it....the yelling has now reached new levels, the hatred of school has gone up a notch higher....how is THIS productive? My temper was at a new high. Is this the way it is going to be till my child graduates? Fighting every night to do homework. All the material sent home for parents to teach...do I not pay a fortune in taxes for the TEACHERS to teach this stuff. But if you go and cram so much stuff in one day, how can a teacher actually have time to teach? Therefor - Why should my child have to listen to MY frustration too. Last April was one of the scariest times in my life. My teacher saw it first hand too because after the Terra Nova tests my child became a different person. I wrote my teacher emails constantly I was so scared....where did my happy child go? Why is my child so depressed she clings to me in the morning when I drop her off at

school. And by no means is my child a slow learner. But something happened after those tests that scared the crap and life out of her. For 2 months I struggled every morning to just get her to walk into school everyday....why? The teacher was a champ, came out special many mornings to walk my child in the door of school, bless her heart, she saw the difference. Summer, being able to be a child and play with friends and play outside, brought the life back into my child. Lots of prayers, lots of hugs, thank God! My next step would have been a therapist. Why is it so hard for me to love my child's school years so far? Where is the joy in the projects they brings home - there is so many papers - it is not enjoyable looking at 125 math pages in one month. So I am sharing this for those other parents that are also asking: WHY? I am a stay at home mom. I read to my children, I help them with their studies, I am active in their school - because I want to be and I am blessed to do so. I love my children's school, but I am not in love with Common Core. They don't want us to be behind other countries...huh! So let's have all the students in the US just hate school and give up early. Makes sense, right.....Let's put em all in IST programs because they can't keep up....makes sense right. Is our government really trying to "dumb us down" or are they really trying to make us smarter faster.....hmmm From one Frustrated Mom



Cooper, Kathy

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**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 4:22 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Donna

**Last Name:** Bennett

**Address:** 47 Grandview Ave., Baden, PA 15005

**Email:** [ratchase55@hotmail.com](mailto:ratchase55@hotmail.com)

**Subject:** Common Core

**Message:**

Common Core (and anything else they want to call it) needs to be removed from the school systems across the country. Common Core wants to reimagine the history of our country and the world. Thereby making lessons learned through history lost. Common Core will dumb down our students by dumbing down our curriculum. Since when is  $4 \times 3 = 11$  not considered wrong? Common Core collects personal data on students and family. Personal information such as: \*How does each family member vote? \*How much money does the family earn? \*Does anyone in the home own a gun? \*And dozens of other personal questions that do not influence a child's ability to read, write or calculate math problems. Common Core also has plans to place cameras in the classroom and strap sensors on children and desk chairs to monitor their emotions and attention. This is supposed to help the teacher find out if little Johnny is paying attention and to change the way he is taught. Unless you are planning to give each child their own personal teacher to monitor and change the curriculum as each child tends to lose concentration for various reasons then this will be a huge waste of money and time. Maybe the reason little Johnny is squirming in his chair is that he has an itch on his foot and can't scratch it or maybe he cannot stay on task because he has a headache not because he is not interested in learning. Common Core is designed to help the government guide you toward your career path starting from a young age. So if you have not started your educational training on a good foot, you will be guided into a career path that is more menial. If that is the case then Dr. Ben Carson a renowned pediatric neurological surgeon at Johns Hopkins could have been guided to be a ditch digger. He didn't take an interest in learning until he was in middle school. Everyone has a right to choose their own path in life. Some people don't find their path until later in life. Everyone is offered a free high school education in this country. What is needed in the school is a back to basics approach to this, reading, writing, arithmetic and true world and U.S. history. What is also needed is a way to inspire the children to want to learn to better their life and the lives of their family. They need to learn how important it is to have an education in everyday life. Not everyone needs a college degree but they should at least be able to have a functioning knowledge of everyday tasks. They need to know how to read, write, balance a checkbook, figure out a timecard, balance a budget, follow a recipe, read a measuring tape, and most important is how to hold a job in a field that they like and selected themselves. In conclusion, Common Core will only create a lot of uneducated children to figure out how to run the country. Remember we will all be retired someday. Do you

want your doctor to think  $4 \times 3 = 11$  is correct.? Is this what you want for your children and grandchildren? I URGE YOU TO GET RID OF COMMON CORE AND ANYTHING ELSE THEY WANT TO CALL IT. IT WILL DESTROY OUR CHILDREN AND OUR COUNTRY

**Cooper, Kathy**

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IRRC

**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:10 AM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 11: 03



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Allison

**Last Name:** Shipp

**Address:** 1316 mallard rd. aprD camp hill pa 17011

**Email:** [allison.shipp@gmail.com](mailto:allison.shipp@gmail.com)

**Subject:** please stop common core!

**Message:**

Thank you for your time today while viewing this letter. I do not support the state wide mandate of the common core curriculum. Its taking the creativity out of teaching & making our children robots. I believe in personal responsibility, free will & that goes for everything, including education. Thank you for your time. I hope that you will look into your spirit & find your truth. Please listen to the people who have elected you! Be well.  
Sincerely, Allison Shipp

**Cooper, Kathy**

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IRRC

**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:11 AM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 11:02



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Bill

**Last Name:** McDonald

**Address:** 702 Main Street

**Email:** [willyjlll@hotmail.com](mailto:willyjlll@hotmail.com)

**Subject:** Stop Common Core

**Message:**

In itself it's not a bad idea but when you make government in charge of it, government oversteps bounds collects all kinds of irrelevant data to the subject at hand and gives even more power to the govt. In light of the most recent admissions of Obama Care, I urge you to stop this rampant out of control behavior of the federal government. We alone as States can stop this and we need to exercise our individual states rights. There is nothing but negative connotations. We as states can and should get together and come up with curriculum that spans across our states without Federal over stepping, controlling data, and demanding more taxes from hard working barely getting by Americans. This has to stop. The Federal Government and Obama's track record speaks for itself - nothing but lies.

**Cooper, Kathy**

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**From:** ContactForm@state.pa.us  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:02 PM  
**To:** Help  
**Subject:** IRRC Website - New Message

2013 OCT 30 AM 8:55



A new message has arrived from the IRRC Website

**First Name:** Corinne

**Last Name:** Gallagher

**Address:** Easton

**Email:** [corinne.gallagher@merck.com](mailto:corinne.gallagher@merck.com)

**Subject:** reg 6-326/IRRC 2976 - Common Core

**Message:**

To whom it may concern I am writing to ask you, emphatically, to repeal common core standards in Pennsylvania. This curriculum should not be implemented! First, has to do with the cost. Do we even know, at this point, what the cost of implementation will be on a school system that is already so stretched for resources? Second, and equally important, is the curriculum itself which has not had a single student's worth of data behind it, nor endorsements from any accredited educational body. Please do not make our children the guinea pigs of a system that is untried and unvetted. Further to the point of the curriculum's lack of evidence, what is painfully obvious and already documented in many states and classrooms is that rather than encouraging growth, it is causing confusion, discouragement and frustration among our students, not to mention parents and educators alike. No one who reviews components of the agenda can deny that portions of it are highly propagandized. The methodology will "teach" the children what to think rather than develop the critical and innovative thinkers that our country needs for the future. Think back to your favorite teacher – the one who most inspired you. Were they restricted by a heavy curriculum from which they were unable to deviate, in order to "teach to the test", or did they take the time to know how to relate to the classroom? Often, they were the teachers who were unorthodox in their approach, passionate about their subject matters and joyful about the opportunity to share that knowledge. Know that common core does not allow for any such personal interest. There is a reason that US Constitution's 10th Amendment provides authority of states over education. Our country's framers knew inherently that children in different parts of the country and in different states and often even different towns, cities and villages within the same state learn differently. Nationalizing the standards will impact what and how those different learners learn. Every child in America will not succeed under a single methodology. It is critical to maintain local control over our children's education. Further, school districts will no longer have any incentive to aspire to higher standards because they will all be teaching to the same level of national mediocrity. Data privacy has been an ongoing issue for Americans especially today. Common core will result in the collection of data from our children and families that is unprecedented. Data on hundreds of metrics will be collected on our children which will follow them throughout their lives. Information that once was and should remain private will be assessed, stored and sold in a way that is highly concerning. Please, on behalf of the

children and parents of the state of Pennsylvania, decline the CCSS for the schools of Pennsylvania. Sincerely,  
Corinne Gallagher