

Cooper, Kathy

2976

From: Lucy Tscherne <lucyst@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 3:32 PM
To: David Sumner; Johnson, Leslie A. Lewis; Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Yohn, Cheryl; Cooper, Kathy; Hoffman, Stephen F.; Michelle L. Elliott; Schalles, Scott R.; Smith, James M.
Cc: lucyst@verizon.net
Subject: Pennsylvania Core Standards

2013 OCT 11 PM 3:34

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IRRC

Mr. Sumner and other Members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission,

Please put a halt on implementation of PA Core Standards until we have answers to the following questions:

1. How much will implementation of PA Core Standards cost the people of PA and how will we pay for these costs?

The Pioneer Institute estimates costs for PA at **\$648 Billion** for professional development, texts and other educational materials and technology. *Pioneer Institute Public Policy Research, "National Costs of Aligning States and Localities to the Common Core Standards," Feb. 2012

<http://pioneerinstitute.org/download/national-cost-of-aligning-states-and-localities-to-the-common-core-standards/>

2. What empirical evidence do we have that these standards will improve education in PA?

Dr. James Milgram of Stanford University, the only mathematician on the Common Core Validation Committee, and Dr. Sandra Stotsky, Professor of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas, former Senior Associate Commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Education in charge of the development of the State's widely praised English Language Arts standards and member of the Common Core Validation Committee on English Language Arts stated

"At this time we can conclude only that a **gigantic fraud** has been perpetrated on this country, in particular on parents in this country, by those developing, promoting, or endorsing Common Core's standards. **We have no illusion that the college-readiness level in ELA will be any more demanding than Common Core's college-readiness level in mathematics.**"

<http://www.uaedreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2000/01/ZimbaMilgramStotskyFinal.pdf>

3. Have parents across the State accepted the **enhanced data mining** of their children (PIMS) and the changes to FERPA that allow **sharing of this data with outside vendors**? Are they even aware?

<http://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/privacy-and-common-core>

4. Have you had several, conveniently scheduled, parent review sessions, in each county, in the State. Most parents are not aware of the Common Core Standards. Among those who are aware, and among many Democrat and Republican politicians, there is significant opposition.

- a. Standards were hastily implemented resulting in poor test scores, e.g., NYC and NYS

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/mulgrew-poor-test-results-show-curriculum-rushed-article-1.1420878>

- b. Excessive testing even in early grades, standards are not research based and ignore what is known about learning, especially in early childhood
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2013/04/24/is-the-common-core-standards-initiative-in-trouble/>

For the sake of the children of PA, please put a halt to PA Core Standard implementation.

Thank you,
Lucy Tscherne
Bryn Mawr, PA
Mother and Grandmother