



Keep Education Local

LOCAL SCHOOL CONTROL PRODUCES THE BEST EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES



Common Core: Top-Down Control of American Education!

Common Core State Standards: What you've been told

- **Claim: Not a Federal Program**
 - Common Core is a [NATIONAL curriculum](#), contrary to [federal law](#).
 - **Federally-funded assessments.** The Federal Government [granted](#) \$330 Million to two consortia to write the Common Core assessments: Smarter Balance Assessment Consortia (SBAC) and PARCC. Utah is a governing member of SBAC.
 - **Federal Government is encouraging and incentivizing Common Core.** [Race to the Top Grants](#) “encouraged” adoption of the Common Core Standards. No Child Left Behind [waivers](#), conditioned on adoption of Common Core.
- **Claim: State-led initiative**
 - **The National Governors' Association was peripherally involved in the standards:** The [NGA Center for Best Practices](#) (an associated entity of the National Governors Association), [CCSSO](#), and [NCEE](#) developed the standards
 - **Big-money was involved in the creation and implementation:** The NGA Center, the CCSSO, and the NCEE received millions of dollars from the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), among other interested parties.
- **Claim: Higher Standards**
 - **Math standards are “too close to call” compared to Utah’s current standards.** The Fordham Foundation says [Utah’s current standards are an A-minus](#), as are Common Core’s. Incidentally, the Fordham Foundation received a grant from the [Gates Foundation “to develop supportive materials”](#)
 - **14 states have the same or higher standards for English.** Utah may want to adopt more rigorous English standards. There are 14 states, besides the Common Core, to choose from. Three are superior to Common Core.
 - **The SBAC Math assessments focus on communication skills and standards that are not testable.** Also, the standards [allow ‘fuzzy math’ curricula](#), previously rejected by the state board.
- **Claim: We still have local control**
 - **Removes local control:** Standards lead to assessments which lead to curricula. [Parents, teachers, and legislators](#) will be shut out from the state education standards.
 - **Won’t adopt Social Studies and Science Standards** because they are too controversial, but the English standards include [“Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects”](#)
 - **As a governing member of SBAC, Utah has already promised to fully implement the assessments by 2014-15.**
- **Truth: Extensive cost to taxpayers to implement.**

Resolutions against the Common Core State Standards have been advanced by

- the [National Federation of Republican Women](#) (unanimous approval)
- the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#)* (ALEC)
- [Closing the Door on Innovation](#) (a conglomeration of national education leaders and policy writers)
- [National Council of Teachers of English](#) (NCTE) [passed a resolution against Common Core in 2010](#) but are officially neutral on adoption

*Awaiting approval by the Board of Directors after receiving a [\\$376,635 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), underwriters and contributors to the [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#)

Think Tanks and Policy Organizations Against Common Core

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|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| • Heritage Foundation | • CATO Institute | • Pioneer Institute |
| • Friedman Foundation | • American Principles Project | • Eagle Forum |
| • Goldwater Institute | • Hoover Institute | |
| • Truth in American Education | • Conservative Teachers of America | |

States Not Adopting Common Core

Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

States Pushing Back Against Common Core

[Alabama](#), [Indiana](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Wyoming](#)

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