



CITIZENS FOR TRADITIONAL VALUES OPPOSES THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

Citizens for Traditional Values has undertaken a detailed review of Common Core. We have reviewed material presented by both sides and investigated the claims of opponents and supporters. It has been determined after months of original source research, thoughtful consideration of experts, listening to committee hearing testimony and individual conversations that *Citizens for Traditional Values* does not support the adoption, implementation and/or funding of the Common Core Standards (CCS) for Michigan.

CCS proponents see this initiative as a step toward much-needed educational reform. However, we have discovered that even after all the legislative reviews and expert public endorsements, there *still remain too many unanswered questions and potential unintended consequences* for Michigan to adopt these standards.

Sadly, advocates for CCS are often misunderstood and/or vilified in their intent to reform education in Michigan. It is also unfortunate that opponents of Common Core are often labeled “misinformed” or “conspiracy theorists.” In our view, the legitimate questions found in the arguments of CCS supporters are significant enough to warrant further investigation and discussion, before proceeding *any further*.

VIABILITY

Education professionals, policy analysts, and government officials center their concerned and justified critiques of the CCS on four points: the standards are pedagogically flawed and academically deficient; the standards will not fix the current broken education system; the method of implementing the standards is flawed and expensive; and the federal government has overstepped its bounds. It is not well publicized by the “educational experts” that *five members of the national Common Core Validation Committee refused to even validate the standards* and have written two studies challenging the academic merit of the standards.

We are told that the Common Core Standards are absolutely necessary to prepare students for college and careers. However, since they are being adopted across the nation for the very first time, there is no evidence for such a claim.

PROCESS AND COST

When the Federal Government offered \$4.35 billion of Race to the Top funds to states adopting the Common Core, Michigan adopted the standards with only minimal and limited public debate. In fact most lawmakers, along with a majority of Michigan citizens, *STILL* do not have a good understanding of the standards themselves and the process by which they were developed and are being implemented. This is a massive overhaul of education that was launched even before the standards were fully completed! In addition, according to their own report, the MI Department of Education has not conducted any studies to determine the cost, including *for local school districts*, for the implementation of CCS in Michigan.

TESTING AND LOCAL CONTROL

The National Assessment of Educational Progress has been making comparisons based on tests for 20 years. Will additional national standards add anything to that information? Though CCS supporters say

that the State remains in control, the standards and tests that will follow are copyrighted by third-party groups. It is impossible to predict how much control parents, local districts and the State will forfeit over the long run. With something likely to be so permanent, why is more time not being provided to review pilot programs, and make sure it is the *most effective process* for our children? Additionally, once adopted, the likelihood that government will ever undo the standards is not very high.

EFFECT ON PRIVATE AND HOME EDUCATION

The Common Core *will impact private and home education*. The implementation of the standards will require all students to pass the CCS test to be considered “college ready.” The standards and test will reflect a specific education philosophy and since everyone will be forced to “teach to the test,” the Common Core will ultimately affect both public and non-public education. In addition, there are serious concerns about the data collection aspect of the Common Core and where that might lead us regarding privacy.

CONCLUSION

Although advocates for CCS assure skeptics that there has been sufficient public debate, many—including CTV—disagree. Our children’s education is too important to proceed with the Common Core Standards when there are so many unanswered questions and potential unintended consequences.

For these reasons and others, CTV recommends that the Common Core Standards are not implemented in Michigan.