

Common Core & How it Affects School Students

Letter to the Editor submitted to the Hunterdon County Democrat in 2015, but not published:

It is irresponsible and a disgrace for any school board member (Flemington-Raritan School Board or Hunterdon Central High School Board) to be promoting “Common Core”.

What is “Common Core”? Common Core (a continuation of “No Child Left Behind” on steroids) is a K-12 set of national education standards for English language arts and mathematics classes that was developed by Achieve Inc. and promoted through the Council of Chief State School Officials and the National Governors Association. Both are private Washington, DC based trade organizations. When states signed up for Common Core through programs such as “Race to the Top” in 2009 and 2010, the standards were not yet written. In other words, the states never saw the standards.

What will “Common Core” do to our English and Math standards? The English Language Arts (ELA) standards is intended to remove great American and British literary works such as Mark Twain, John Bunyan William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, etc. It will be replaced by simple brochures, government propaganda pamphlets such as Global Warming, restaurant menus and so on. Forget about expanding children’s vocabulary and writing skills. Cursive writing has also been targeted; however, the schools can still teach cursive writing, but Robert Hunter School is not teaching cursive writing. The teachers blame this on Common Core, which is taking a lot of time out of their schedule.

The Common Core math standards likewise will be dumbed down. Most students will not be prepared for any college level mathematics, especially an engineering program. For example, one school teacher under Common Core wanted the student to solve “ $530 - 270 = ?$ ” in the following manner: First, add 30 to both numbers, changing the problem to “ $560 - 300 = ?$ ” These numbers are the “friendly” numbers, because they are supposedly easier to work with. The old-fashion method works better. Just subtract “ $530 - 270 = 260$ ”. This will also affect SAT and ACT scores because the tests have to be aligned with Common Core Standards.

Common Core also has a social agenda. Students will be taught kissing and hugging is the same as every other deviate sex acts. There is a sameness to “all” sex. There is no such thing as normal sex in the Common Core curriculum and pornography should not be looked down upon. Yes, this will be taught to our young children. (See Common Core: Dangers and Threat <<http://www.jbs.org/home/common-core-dangers-and-threats>>; a video by Dr. Duke Pesta.)

It is unfortunate that the school boards are filled with individuals that promote Common Core and allow the Superintendent and Administrator to have complete control over the school. The Superintendent of Hunterdon Central High School was given a \$25k bonus to change the current scheduling to an A/B block scheduling (students cannot double up or take Algebra I and II in the same year) last year for the PARCC test. The PARCC test is part of Common Core, but the school board did not have to adopt the test.

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For further information, see website below.

How Students are Dumbed Down & Common Core: A Scheme <<http://www.nijat.com/high-school.html#7>>