

STAND FOR EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM KEEP EDUCATION LOCAL



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMON CORE FORUM Feb. 20 in Baton Rouge

FORMAT: Panel Discussion by experts on Common Core

PLACE: Crossfire Auditorium, 8919 World Ministry Ave., Baton Rouge, LA

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2014

TIME: 6:00pm

“Common Core” is a term heard often in regard to public education and will likely be a hot topic in the upcoming legislative session. What exactly is “Common Core?”

Concern(Ed) Parents, educators and citizens announces a forum to create citizen awareness of this divisive, controversial issue formally called the **Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)**, adopted by Louisiana and many other states.

Many of the claims made by Common Core supporters will be addressed by this Forum. For those on the fence or who are unaware of what Common core is, this informational evening should cover all the questions. For about the price of a movie ticket, attendees will learn how Common Core was conceptualized, who are the true creators and supporters of CCSS, and the lack of educator input and endorsement of these "standards".

Discussion will also include the concern over the expensive, intrusive testing and resulting data collections tied to Common Core; the PARCC test and Pearson Learning; the financial incentives corporations have for promoting this agenda; and what other states are doing about these concerns. Attendees will be able to network with other parents and community leaders to discuss how Common Core has already impacted Louisiana children, and what can be done about it.

Forum Panelists from around the U.S. include : www.louisianacore.org

Dr. James Milgram, Professor Emeritus, Stanford University, member of the Common Core workgroup;

Dr. Sandra Stotsky, Professor of Education, University of Arkansas, who served as a member of the Common Core Validation Committee.

James Stergios, Exec. Director of the Pioneer Institute, who will highlight the numerous conflicts of interest that have riddled advocates of the Common Core.

Jane Robbins, Senior Fellow for American Principles Project, who will discuss looking the origins of Common Core, the federal and private interests behind its creation, and the threat CCSI represent to parents’ and teachers’ voice in what their children are learning.

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Emmett McGroarty, Exec. Director of the Preserve Innocence Initiative at the **American Principles Project**, who will describe national efforts to stop Common Core.

Dr. Terrence Moore, Professor of history at **Hillsdale College**. Addressing the Common Core reduction of the study of fiction, Moore said: "Literature is the study of human nature. If we dissect it in this meaningless way, kids not only do not become college and career ready, they don't even have a love of learning; they don't even have an understanding of their fellow men. The thing that bothers me more than anything else is found on page number one of the introduction. That says that Common Core is a living work. That means that the thing that you vote on today could be something different tomorrow, and five years from now it is completely unrecognizable."

The Common Core State Standards Initiative has raised such concerns as : untested standards; privacy issues created through data mining; unconstitutional mandates for adherence to a national curriculum; and a national standardized test, called the **Partnership for Assessment for College and Career Readiness (PARCC)**.

All are in direct violation of the rights of parents in the State of Louisiana. According to the **Louisiana Children's Code** Preamble: "Parents have the paramount right to raise their children in accordance with their own values and traditions; that parents should make the decisions regarding the educational, moral, ethical, and religious training of the child."

The CCSSI is educationally unsound offering a limited view of education as preparation for college and the workforce without regard for the creativity and curiosity that engages students and produces life-long learners and innovative thinkers. The national curriculum produced for CCSSI is set up for a national standardized test (PARCC) which cannot evaluate complex thought, avoid cultural bias, or measure non-verbal learning. Nationalized standards are no longer a measure of performance but mandate a proficiency level that does not represent the individual potential of every child.

The federal government and private organizations have imposed the Standards on the states. They have done so in a manner that denied the people and their elected legislators a meaningful chance to review the Standards and to consider the implications of participation in the Common Core Standards system, including assessments and data collection. The federal constitutional structure – a compound republic with a separation of powers – serves to protect our liberties and governance by the people. The **Common Core Standards Initiative** and *Race to the Top* misused that structure by taking the people's money and forcing their elected representatives to decide whether to compete for a chance to get that money back, and did so without respecting the states' responsibility to put the issue to their people. We are now coming to terms with some of consequences of evading the constitutional structure. Those consequences include national standards that – contrary to the creators' claim of academic rigor – are of inferior academic quality, that rest on a philosophy of education contrary to our founding, that undermine state autonomy and parental involvement, that intrude on student and family privacy, and that will impose enormous costs on state taxpayers.

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Critics of Common Core believe that the final chapter of this story will likely be a rededication to the principle of government by the people. The American people are now awakening to the reality that their states have surrendered control to “experts,” who are delivering a product that falls profoundly short of its billing. State elected bodies now have the chance to reverse this. They have the chance to reassert the people’s right to self-determination. For the sake of our founding principles, they should do so. - (**Controlling Education From the Top Why Common Core Is Bad for America** - A Pioneer Institute and American Principles Project White Paper by Emmett McGroarty and Jane Robbins)

STOP COMMON CORE IN LOUISIANA is a coalition of concern parents working together to bring awareness to this Federal overreach called The Common Core Standards Initiative. We are committed in Standing for Educational Freedom and will work tirelessly to Keep Education Local.

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