

REASONS FOR CONCERN ABOUT COMMON CORE

Adoption Process

- Contrary to proponents' claims, the Common Core Initiative is not "state-led," but rather the Common Core (CC) standards were created and funded by special interests. States had little to no input.
- The federal government has coerced states into accepting the CC standards, by tying their adoption to *Race to the Top* funding, *No Child Left Behind* waivers, etc.
- Under the Constitution, the federal government has no role in education policy. Moreover, three federal statutes prohibit what the federal government has done with the CC and the attendant assessments.

State/Local Control and Governance

- The federal government is funding the creation of the tests that will be aligned with CC and what's on the tests will dictate what's taught in the classroom. The inevitable result will be a national curriculum controlled by the federal government.
- A state must accept the CC standards word for word. It may add 15% content but may not subtract anything. Anything it adds will not be included on the national tests.
- In order to change any strand of the CC, a state must persuade 44 other jurisdictions (and probably the US Dep't of Education) to agree to the proposed change.

Content Concerns

- The English language arts standards in CC de-emphasize the study of literature and have been found by a University of Arkansas expert as inadequate to prepare students for college. She writes: "The wisest move all states could make to ensure that students learn to read, understand, and use the English language appropriately before they graduate from high school is first to abandon Common Core's 'standards'"
- The math standards in CC, by moving algebra I from 8th grade to 9th, will ensure that the large majority of students do not reach calculus in high school.
- The math standards in CC require that geometry be taught by an experimental method that has never been used successfully anywhere in the world.
- It opens the door for the federal government to push future standards in other subjects.

Cost of Implementation to the States/Localities

- The states' costs of implementing CC will be substantial and will include new textbooks, teacher re-training, technology, etc. One study estimates \$16 billion nationwide in implementation costs alone.

Privacy/Data Sharing

- As part of the CC process, the federal government pushed states into creating massive databases of very personal student and family information, which it can now share with other federal and state agencies.