

Reasons to Oppose Common Core

What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core is a set of K-12 content standards for math and English/Language Arts developed primarily through Achieve, Inc., the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers and largely funded by the Gates Foundation. The U.S. Department of Education encouraged adoption of the Common Core through the Race to the Top grants and No Child Left Behind conditional waivers. The Illinois State Board of Education adopted the Common Core on June 24, 2010. The Common Core replaced Illinois Learning Standards previous math and ELA standards.

Reasons to oppose:

1. **It's dataless reform:** There is no evidence that suggests centralizing education around a set of standards will raise student achievement. Proven methods and models for education reform were ignored in the development of these standards.
2. **The adoption process was flawed.** The Illinois Legislature was not involved in the process and "we the people" were not given a voice. This is a poor way to determine any policy let alone education policy.
3. **It's unconstitutional.** The Federal role in the adoption process through Race to the Top and NCLB waivers is suspect. There is no legitimate role in education. The federal funding of the Common Core assessment consortia is in violation of three federal laws.
4. **The standards are not quality.** Fordham Institute (who advocates for the Common Core) said there were three states that had superior math standards and 11 states that had superior English/Language Arts standards why not use those as a model? Illinois standards were lacking before, but there are better models out there.
5. **We have student data privacy concerns.** Illinois has a signed agreement with PARCC who in turn has a signed agreement with the U.S. Department of Education saying they will provide student-level data. They also have a contract with inBloom, Inc. Right now student-level data such as student names, addresses, test scores, learning disabilities, attendance and disciplinary records are uploaded. It can also include health records and teacher assessments of student behavior could be included. Parents were not notified.
6. **The standards are costly.** If Illinois adopts the PARCC the state will jump from paying \$20 per student per assessment to at least \$29.50 per student per assessment. PARCC is an online test that has technology requirements that every Illinois school district may not be prepared to meet.

Learn more:

- <http://stopcommoncoreillinois.org>
- <http://truthinamericaneducation.com>
- <http://fightcommoncore.com>

