

Unintentional Consequences of Common Core

Eunie Smith, President and Leslie Whitcomb, Education Chairman

A national one-size-fits-all approach to American education by its very nature lowers academic achievement across the board, neglects the basics, and is ripe for political indoctrination and social manipulation. The downward achievement trend for America and Alabama since Common Core implementation is undeniable. "In its most extreme form, national control of curriculum is a form of national control of ideas," said Joseph A Califano, Secretary of HEW under Pres. Carter. Thus, Common Core (CC) produces little socialists and a less educated, less humane populace who may one day be incapable of maintaining freedom.

Common Core is the embodiment of the progressive agenda in math, reading, literature and history. Some experienced teachers still find ways to teach the basics in spite of CC; but CC hurts low-income students the worst.

Common Core Math

In CC, fluency in addition and subtraction is not required until the 4th grade. Multiplication and division are delayed until the 5th and 6th grade. If this two-year delay related to the standard algorithm for each of the four operations [addition, subtraction, multiplication and division] remains in the standards, successful achievement in math for most students will be doomed as they move into higher grades. Proficiency in math reasoning beginning with Algebra 1 depends on fluency in math operations beginning in the first grade, but CC Alabama delays fluency until 3rd grade with testing in 4th grade. Rather than grading on right answers alone, CC grades young children on recitation of developmentally inappropriate math reasoning and laborious homework exercises incomprehensible to parents and most children. *Common Does Not Equal Excellent* <https://appfdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Common-Core-Math-Excellence.pdf>

English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects

Literacy

Dr. Louisa Moats, internationally renowned reading expert, was a contributor to Common Core, but became very disenchanted with its final form:

“The reading program in CC is contributing to the escalating crisis in literacy across America because the standards are deeply flawed and not based in science...insufficient or poor foundational skills including phonics, phoneme awareness, and lack of automatic, fluent word reading in the early years contributes to later literacy problems and failures in children. ...There’s language in Common Core that’s not based in reality, that doesn’t reflect how children learn to read. We have decades of data on what it takes for kids to acquire fluency... There is lots of evidence showing this including studies about what happens in the brain as children learn to read. It is a myth that kids learn...any words ‘by sight.’ They don’t.” <http://www.educationviews.org/common-core-contributor-dr-louisa-moats-blows-whistle-on-common-core-reading/>

One learns to read with comprehension and proficiency by encountering increasingly difficult content which engages and instructs. Prior to CC, this was accomplished by an emphasis on time-honored literary texts. CC Standards require children in grade 4 to read 50% ‘information’ vs. literary text; by grade 8 students are to read 55% informational and by grade 12 they are to read 70% informational and 30% literary texts.

Literature

Introduction into the ELA classroom of informational texts such as history, social studies, science and technical subjects results in ELA teachers handling subjects for which they are not prepared. College readiness decreases when informational reading reduces the study of complex literary texts and literary tradition... Common Core’s secondary ELA standards were not developed or approved by English teachers and humanities scholars, nor were they research based or inter-

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by Barbara Enrenreich, is an anti-capitalist tract presented as a diary of the author's three-month experiences as a low-wage worker." [How Common Core's ELA Standards Place College Readiness at Risk](#) by Bauerlin & Stotsky

Upper elementary students cannot do well on NAEP reading "when their language arts curriculum has eliminated the great children's literature that got them to read – especially boys." Sandra Stotsky PhD. Member of CC Validation Committee.

"CC is ... taking away the great stories of a great people that teach us how to be good, just, brave, loving and free ... to love the beautiful, to find true happiness, to pursue truth. These are the traditional aims of education. ... CC smears America with the brush of racism, sexism..." *Story-Killers: A Common Sense Case against the Common Core* by Terrence Moore, PhD

Political Indoctrination

UnboundEd CEO Kate Gerson was employed by the New York DOE to create Common Core-compliant curriculum for Engage NY. Education Week reported "44 percent of elementary math teachers and 30 percent of secondary teachers in common-core states are using materials from EngageNY." After a relatively short period of time, EngageNY's curriculum bank fell under the control of Gerson's UnboundEd; and her CC curriculum spread across the entire United States. [Gerson's CC curriculum has been advocated in Alabama for teachers].

Gerson instructs teachers by saying, "If you are under the impression that there are good white people and bad white people, you're wrong ... racial biases are pervasive, universal, and something 'you cannot be cured from'."

<https://thefederalist.com/2018/11/05/9-years-common-core-test-scores-indoctrination/>

As described by other curriculum scholars, UnboundEd's training in reading and math is "grounded in conversations about the roles that race, bias and prejudice play in our schools and classrooms... educators are to be Equity-Change Agents" who must first acknowledge that "we are part of a systematically racist system of education."

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2018/10/26/hess-addison-common-core-advancing-left-wing-agenda/>

David Coleman is known as the "architect of the Common Core." He became the president of The College Board (CB) that produces the Advanced Placement [A.P.] tests/study guides and the Pre-SAT and SAT. He publicly stated that all CB products would be aligned with the Common Core, and he has done just that. An Advanced Placement American History text calls Pres. Trump a racist and questions his mental stability; portrays conservatives as heartless racists and sexists... explains opposition to Hilary Clinton as the product of sexism." <https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/anti-trump-history-textbook-troubling-trend/>

History

Common Core's standards writers call for the 'cold reading' of historical documents without any background knowledge to place them in the appropriate historical context. The College Board's new A.P. U S. History curriculum also mirrors the ideological biases of progressive education. "...there are no themes on federalism, separation of powers, the Federalist Papers, or the Gettysburg Address. The curriculum doesn't ask teachers to teach about Benjamin Franklin and contains no mention of Thomas Jefferson or James Madison. The events of September 11, 2001 are never referred to as a terrorist attack."

<https://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-state-standards/u-s-history-instruction-damaged-by-common-core-literacy-standards/>

Poetry

"... in all of the Common Core literary samples... not one of them has anything to do with man's longing for the divine. That omission cannot be the result of chance... It means that you have to avoid most of Chaucer, much of Shakespeare, and all of Spenser... You cannot include a single sacred lyric by Donne, Herbert, or Hopkins. Milton must be banished... With him goes the greatest and most influential poem in English, 'Paradise Lost'. Along with Milton goes much of Dryden and Pope and Johnson, much of the best of Wordsworth and Keats, almost all of Coleridge. The fact is that English literature, until recently, was steeped in Scripture and was preoccupied with the great existential questions of human life, which could not even be posed without reference to faith... Common Core's English language arts standards reveal the grim irony of the misnomer 'Common Core,' for there is no core at all in any set of standards built around a negative: no heart, no shared objects of love, reverence, and memory." <https://truthinamericaneducation.com/common-core-state-standards/how-common-core-damages-poetry-instruction/>

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Parent Alienation from Children and Schools, Teacher and Student Frustration

See book *The Education Invasion: How Common Core Fights Parents for Control of American Kids* by Joy Pullman

Articles on Poor Nationwide Achievement by Joy Pullman

May 30, 2019 - "Under Common Core, Federally Funded Study Shows Students' Test Scores Have Sunk" <http://www.educationviews.org/under-common-core-federally-funded-study-shows-students-test-scores-have-sunk>

October 31, 2019 - "First Common Core High School Grads Worst Prepared for College in 15 Years" <https://www.educationviews.org/first-common-core-high-school-grads-worst-prepared-for-college-in-15-years>

December 5, 2019 - "Despite Common Core Promises, U.S. Kids Repeat Poor Performance Latest Global Test" <https://thefederalist.com/2019/12/05/despite-common-core-promises-u-s-kids-repeat-poor-performance-on-latest-global-test/>

Polls show well over two-thirds of Alabamians object to "Common Core," yet Alabama schools have never replaced it with sound curriculum.

No One Is Coming! We Must Prepare Now! Preparations for an EMP, Part IV

By Theresa Hubbard, National Eagle Forum Anti-Terrorism Chairman

RECAP

We have seen in the last three articles that we have experts, politicians and state and local officials involved with the nation's critical infrastructure and very little is being done to ensure our grid is protected. In article III, Michael Mabee, a retired Army Command Sergeant Major, explained that he has made it his life's mission to hold the utility industry and our political leaders responsible for what they are not doing. CSM Mabee, in a letter to the US Senate, emphatically pointed out to our elected officials that, "ratepayers paying their electric bills...are...paying the electric utilities to lobby against their own safety."

My first article stated that a large scale, long term power outage would immediately take our nation back to 1849 living. Our modern lifestyle is ill prepared for that type of living. So, what does all this mean? It's up to YOU and ME to do something about our safety and security. This is necessary on two levels. First, you prepare yourself and your family on a personal basis. Second, how do you sound the warning bells to your community for such a catastrophic event? It's called "Civil Defense." The country during the "Cold War" (which was basically a fear of nuclear war) in the 1950's and 60's had a civil defense plan; it may have had flaws, but we nonetheless had a plan. As the years went by, we all began to leave behind the necessity of planning for a catastrophic event. We also have FEMA and local Emergency Coordinators in our communities along with the Red Cross, Churches, Salvation Army, etc., to respond to most manmade or natural disasters. But what do we do if these organizations are unable to respond since they have no electricity or working vehicles themselves?

WHERE DO WE START?

We need to create an atmosphere of "Civil Defense" throughout our nation. First, prepare your homes. This preparation must be for a longer duration than just the supplies you would need for a hurricane or any other short-term disaster where you know outside help is coming. You would need to have food, medical supplies, fuel, generator, water, seeds for planting, and other long-term supplies. If available, have a vehicle that is old enough to run without the electronics and computers in today's cars. Remember, after an EMP event all electronic devices that were not shielded prior to the event will not work. This could include the pumps that deliver our city water and natural gas service, pumps to remove gasoline out of the tanks of service stations, or working trucks able to deliver more gasoline to stations. Deliveries of food or drugs to grocery stores or drug stores would be disabled, if food or drugs were available at all. Even with all of that, your supplies will only last for so long. It does, however, start with you.

Then reach out to your neighbors, talk with them, and encourage them to do the same. Exchange what type of skills are

among each of you so that you know who can assist with what. Who has electrical expertise, who is a trained nurse, EMT, who is the Ham Radio Operator, auto mechanic familiar with older cars, etc.? We all bring something to the table. Come up with a neighborhood plan and then practice it. Be it teaching your neighbors how to garden, operate a radio, target shooting, or learning how to stand a basic neighborhood watch. The difference here, however, is that our very lives may depend on this type of organizing and preparation. It is important to emphasize that “civilization is fragile and the rule of law is easily cast aside. In a scenario where, substantially, the entire country was without power for a long period of time, ...local and state governments may not be able to maintain order.”¹ Remember that if your vehicle does not run, it is highly unlikely that emergency vehicles will run. Military and Incident Command Structure handbooks can be downloaded off the internet or even purchased online through Amazon.

The next step would be to reach out to your emergency management and local officials. Survival will be a local issue—the cavalry isn’t coming. They would be the ones to address the crisis as it affects you and your neighborhood. Are they aware of the dangers and impact of an EMP event? Do they have a plan to address such an event? If so, what is it? Survival will at this point be dependent on how well prepared and trained we are locally, both in our neighborhoods and greater communities.

If you establish a local group of neighbors, it will be important to ensure that the command structure has leaders who are clearly in charge, know what is expected of them and how to articulate to local officials your local group’s expertise. Former military, law enforcement, medical, ham radio operators, master gardeners, those who know how to sew, know how to do home food production such as dehydrating foods, canning, hunting/fishing and cleaning and gutting animals will be an important addition to your neighborhood group and will make it strong. It will be crucial to have those who know how to handle firearms and can train others to safely handle them.

CONCLUSION

Lastly, at the writing of this final article regarding EMP’s, nationwide blackout, etc., we are facing another threat the “Corona Virus,” and the possibility of mandatory quarantine due to it being a worldwide pandemic. Much of what has been discussed in this article can be applied to a pandemic on an individual basis. Begin preparations now to build a “culture of preparedness” because your life, the lives of your family and your community depend on those who are willing to sound the warning cry and organize. CSM Mabee’s book “*The Civil Defense Book, Emergency Preparedness for a Rural or Suburban Community*” is on his website or from Amazon. Visit his website at www.michaelmabee.info for more ideas on how to get involved and work with your local politicians to ensure they are aware of the dangers of a grid down scenario. We live in a nation that allows its people to organize in this manner. Don’t let the opportunity to prepare yourself slip through your hands,. Do it NOW because once disaster hits it will be too late to plan and train. Prepare now!!

¹Mabee, Michael, *The Civil Defense Book, Emergency Preparedness for a Rural or Suburban Community*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. 2013, 2017. c

Attacks on the Electoral College Continue

Ever since Hillary Clinton claimed that she lost the 2016 Election on the Electoral College, many have started saying that it is one of the most dangerous institutions in American politics. They say that the Electoral College distorts the one-person, one-vote principles of democracy because electoral votes are not distributed according to population. They are very correct because deciding who will be the president by majority is democracy. But, the Founding Fathers went to great lengths to ensure that we were a republic and not a democracy. The word democracy does not appear in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, or any other of our founding documents.

In Federalist Paper No. 10, James Madison wanted to prevent rule by majority faction, saying, “Measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority.” John Adams warned, “Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet, that did not commit suicide.”

The Electoral College thwarts the majority rule. It makes sure that the highly populated states—today mainly 12 on the east and west coasts cannot run roughshod over the rest of the nation.

One wonders if opposition is due to ignorance, or contempt for our Constitution that fuels the movement to abolish the Electoral College.

Based upon article posted in Dailysignal.org on 1/17/2020

The Equal Rights Amendment has been dead for more than four decades, according to a ruling by the Justice Department on January 8, 2020. According to the Justice Department, neither ratification by Virginia nor an effort to revive it by Congress can bring it back to life. The Office of Legal Counsel, which serves as the legal counsel for the Executive Branch, said that the deadline Congress set in 1972 for ratification is still valid and has long expired.

The Washington Times, 1/5/2020

According to an article in the *Daily Signal* on October 24, 2019, a story out of Seattle said that Seattle Public Schools recently proposed adding ethic studies into K-12 Math curriculum. They have gone straight from “new math” to “woke math.” It is full of social justice jargon, saying that the curriculum will “re-humanize” math, whatever that means. It does mean that students will be radicalized with tales of oppression and groomed to be social warriors. Note: See the lead article in this newsletter on the use of Common Core to indoctrinate students in the “art” of collectivist thinking.

The Daily Signal, 10-24-2019

On March 4, 2020, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg claimed that abortion is safer than childbirth. This statement was made during oral arguments on the Louisiana law requiring that doctors have hospital admitting privileges for patient emergencies. The Court is expected to provide their ruling in June.

Of course, the abortion is never safer for the baby, since the purpose of the abortion is to destroy that life. Also, it is not accurate to say that abortion is safer for the woman, either. Researchers point out that the U. S. does not receive enough data from abortion clinics to make that conclusion. However, several European studies have shown that more women die after abortions than after childbirth. And studies that claim abortion to be safer have been shown to be biased.

An abortion is the exact opposite of safety or health care. Its purpose is to destroy life.

We are sad to report the death of national Education chairman and Florida Eagle Forum leader Karen Effrem, MD on February 12, 2020. She was the co-founder of Florida Stop Common Core Coalition and worked with many other entities, including Alabama Eagle Forum. Karen was meticulous in her research of education and medical research and she selflessly shared her information as well as her time and expertise with others with whom she joined around the country. Dr. Effrem also significantly contributed to the great strides made in Florida to replace Common Core under Governor DeSantis. Karen will be greatly missed.

On February 26, 2020, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan overturned a lower court decision in supporting the administration's position. The District Court had ruled that the federal government had to release law enforcement grants to states that refused to cooperate with the federal government when it came to criminal illegal immigrants. The administration previously had refused to release the funding to seven states and New York City over their Sanctuary City policies. The affected states are Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Washington.

Daily Wire, 2-26-2020

Notwithstanding the attacks of Greta Thunberg against the U. S. for leaving the Paris Accord, the International Energy Agency recently reported that the United States emissions fell 2.09% or by 140 million tons, over the peak in the year 2000—the largest absolute decline by any country over that period.

The IEA noted that 80% of the increase in CO2 emissions came from Asia and that China and India both contributed significantly to the increase.

The Daily Wire.com

“It’s a universal law—intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility.”

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn

“One of the traditional methods of imposing statism or socialism on a people has been by way of medicine. It’s very easy to disguise a medical program as a humanitarian project.”

Reagan added, “James Madison in 1788...said... ‘there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachment of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations’...”

Ronald Reagan, 1961

“I suggest to you there is no left or right, only an up or down. Up to the maximum of individual freedom consistent with law and order, or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism; and regardless of their humanitarian purpose, those who would sacrifice freedom for security have, whether they know it or not, chosen this downward path.”

Ronald Reagan, 1964 speech

“I have seen the rise of fascism and communism. Both philosophies glorify the arbitrary power of the state....But both theories fail. Both deny those God-given liberties that are the inalienable right of each person on this planet; indeed, they deny the existence of God.”

Ronald Reagan, in Beijing, China, April 27, 1894

“Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid. That’s why the Marxist vision of man without God must eventually be seen as an empty and a false faith—the second oldest in the world—first proclaimed in the Garden of Eden with whispered words.... ‘Ye shall be as gods.’ The crisis of the Western world...exist to the degree in which it is indifferent to God.” *Ronald Reagan, CPAC 1981*

Alabama Legislature Passes Resolution on Pornography as a Health Crisis

On the first day of the legislative session, the AL Senate unanimously passed a resolution declaring pornography as a public health crisis and the House by 67-19. This is one of Eagle Forum of Alabama's priority pieces of legislation for this session. The Executive Director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), Dawn Hawkins, wrote a national press release praising this move and explains why it is so important. After the resolution had passed both houses, she issued the following statement, celebrating the passage:

“Modern pornography—with its limitless quantity, speed, and violent or degrading themes—is a jarring new variable in human evolution. It’s not surprising that such a variable would have negative effects on brains and bodies built for person-to-person sexual contact. Medical professionals, elected officials, therapists and more are beginning to acknowledge the harms of pornography.”

We are thankful that the House passed this with the same urgency as the Senate, since pornography is one of the major reasons for the rapid rise of human trafficking in America and around the world. Hawkins also pointed out that:

- Pornography has detrimental impacts on the brain; There have been over 40 neurological studies which reveal pornography use has negative and detrimental impacts on the brain.
- Pornography Teaches Users that Women Enjoy Sexual Violence and Degradation: A recent study of Pornhub videos found that 43% of videos included what the researchers categorized as “visible aggression” and 15% included “nonconsensual aggression.” This violence was almost ubiquitously portrayed against women, and women responded to that violence with pleasure. In response to these findings, the researcher noted that the prevalence of aggressive and demeaning acts in videos featuring teenagers, “may signal to viewers of all ages that these acts are not only normative and legitimate, but perhaps even expected,” thus creating social pressure on both young women and men to reenact them with their sexual partners.
- Pornography is Linked to Depressive Symptoms: A study of young adults leaving college found that higher pornography use was significantly associated with less self-worth and more depressive symptoms. This was consistent after controlling for age, religiosity, impulsivity, race, and parents’ marital status.

Pornography is a Public Health Crisis

Pornography fuels sex trafficking, child sex abuse, sexual violence and more.



We thank Sen. Dan Roberts (R) for his prompt handling of this resolution submitted by Eagle Forum calling for full enforcement of all pornography laws and for Danny Garrett carrying it through the House.

Eagle Forum Loses a Dear Friend, Judy Carns



We are saddened by the death, on January 5, 2020, of Judy Carns, a former member of our Alabama Eagle Forum Board of Directors and the wife of Alabama Rep. Jim Carns. In addition to her work with Eagle Forum, Judy was a prayer warrior and involved in many women's Bible studies. She shared her faith in her Lord, Jesus Christ, at every opportunity. She faithfully supported her husband in his political service. Judy was a Trump Delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention and served on the Platform committee. Following the convention, Judy founded the Trumpettes, a women's prayer group supporting the administration. Judy will be missed by her family and many friends, including those from Eagle Forum of Alabama.

Eagle Council XLIX

By Haley Collins, Tennessee Teen Eagle

As a Student Eagle, I am very grateful and honored for the opportunity to have attended Eagle Forum's 49th annual leadership and training conference. My time there was very informative, and I was reminded of the significance and depth of the problems our nation is facing. Although all of the speakers were enlightening, there were definitely a few that impacted me more than others. Those speakers include but are not limited to, Lily Tang Williams and Morgan Zegers.

First and foremost, Lily Tang Williams's speech was very compelling. She was born right before the start of China's Cultural Revolution and grew up in Chengdu, capital of the Sichuan province, in western China. She spoke of the horrors and hardships of living in Communist China. She was brainwashed in public school every day and was required to conform and not stand out as an individual. In 1995, she became a U.S. citizen and could finally speak freely and have her rights protected, which is something we often take for granted. By telling her story, she shared the message that big governments do not work; big governments are very dangerous because they always use force. Our country is going down the wrong path, and Mrs. Williams left me feeling very motivated to do something about it.

Furthermore, I enjoyed "Upstate New York's Phyllis Schlafly" and founder of Young Americans Against Socialism, Morgan Zeger's, speech. She explained that our generation has good intentions, but they are being manipulated by the real enemies in this fight, far-Left leaders like Bernie Sanders. To fight back, Miss Zeger said, "We need to add emotion to the playbook using first-hand stories of survivors of socialism. Provide realistic solutions to our generation's top issues: environment, healthcare, student loans." After her speech, she gave the Student Eagles a really, good piece of advice: Never be silent. Always take a stand.

In conclusion, Eagle Council XLIX was an unparalleled learning experience. As Sarah Huckabee Sanders, one of the Eagle Council XLIX keynote speakers wrote in the Yad V'shem guestbook when she was 11-years-old, "Why didn't somebody do something?" Today, there are several, significant issues that our nation faces. With all that I have learned about these problems at Eagle Council, I plan on educating other people and taking action. I will be a person who does something! Note: Alabama Teen Eagles also had 2 of its members in attendance at the Council.





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