

Testimony against: Common Core & Longitudinal Studies (Tracking)

To the House Education Committee Thursday March 21, 2013 Source sheet attached
*Chairman Kelley, Vice-Chair Cassidy, Ranking Minority Member Trimmer,
and members of the House Education Committee:*

My name is Shirley Koehn 442 Waverly, Wichita, Kansas. I earned Bachelors and Master's degrees in Education with a specialty in Remedial Reading. I taught in high school & middle school for nine years before my husband and I started a retail furniture business.

I try to look at both the seen and unseen, but very real, consequences of a big decision.

- As some localities have started to use Common Core Standards and data collection, a growing number of parents, teachers, states, even some of the very experts who were involved in the beginning are coming out against Common Core and the data collection that goes with it. They realize it is not what they bargained for.
- On the premise that everything in Education is correlated with everything else, data point collection includes not only scores on lessons & tests, but what was breakfast, number and times of school bus stops, details of background and home environment, & much more, even a student's mood, as measured by biometrics. Once data points are collected, they can be data mined and shared. **Parent & student have no "opt out".**
- Recently, I reviewed a series of videos from the Knewton Education Data Palooza, kicked off by Arne Duncan at the White House October 29, 2012. Each video addresses a different aspect of high tech as applied to education. One company has "tagged" **all the content** in Pearson Publishing textbooks. Some presenters spoke of data mining to create new lesson guidance. The state of Georgia received a Federal Grant to develop a system to easily transfer records from school to school, district to district, eventually, across the country. The Plan developed into the S. E. region, which now includes 10 states, including Oklahoma. Have you heard of hackers? Even the Pentagon and big banks are hacked. What recourse is there for parents if records are hacked or sold? Meanwhile Education Materials companies are already mining student data, for free; companies that will make lots of money on the sale of educational materials, **which parents will have to buy. Even home school and private school materials are already being aligned with common core and available in some stores.**
- Every child is issued his own laptop, with his own login. The computer gathers data, evaluates, and comes up with the "perfect plan" for that child. The computer will essentially indicate if you do this, you will succeed at this task, if you do that, you will fail. Program builders at "Data Palooza" claim the data can predict whether the student will succeed or fail at his life goals. **QUESTION: Do you know people who have who succeeded far beyond expectations?** Goals morph into new goals, but will they, if molded by a computer? **What if the computer says, you will never make it?**
- **QUESTION: Are we going into a paradigm that results in a nation of emotionally handicapped people who have never had to work through difficult problems and decisions?** Will they go to the computer to see what to do next? Won't they be easily led by Big Government? Or someone else? We need a nation of thinkers and doers, not robots.
- I am not willing to trade a computer's judgment for a caring knowledgeable teacher, who is free to be the teacher a student remembers 30 years later, as the person who inspired him to reach for his dreams. A computer should be a tool, not the master.
- **PLEASE for our children's sake, defund Common Core and accompanying testing. Keep educational decisions testing and records in Kansas. Thank You.**

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/student-data-compiling-system-outrages-article-1.1287990>

Educational Datapalooza October 29, 2012 at the White House is series of data related short videos re: data collection, use of data to track and channel students, chaining data systems together to produce national data system. Privacy? Kinds of data?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wB0YGC37S4U&feature=share&list=PLhdwy3ASoEfm1QeH0kfNnLWUqy4IE1pPs>

Google: “inBloom educational materials” and “data mining student data”

for many articles and videos

“Common Core Moms with Jenni White” (not great quality video, but good information, well researched from ROPE Restore Oklahoma Public Education.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=eQv5rJ6acys#