

To: Kansas House Committee on Education
Re: Common Core

Introduction: My name is Frank Clark. I live in Manhattan, Kansas.

I taught primarily HS mathematics, History, Government and Economics in private religious and public schools for years.

I administrated in private schools for nearly 20 years. I was responsible for overseeing curriculum as well as managing the school's annual budget.

Concerns with Common Core

I have five areas of serious concern about Common Core which are covered in detail in my written submission to this committee.

1) Funding Issues:

The Obama Administration has pushed states to adopt national standards in exchange for federal funding and waivers from No Child Left Behind. The Kansas share is \$380 million. This is a one time payment. All further Common Core expenses are the state's responsibility.

Common core requirements will add an estimated \$174 million to our already overloaded education burden. This is due to massive immediate changes required in a district's textbooks. For our district, the cost is \$70,000 for the books in just one subject for 720 students.

In addition, each district must purchase additional student computers to conduct the 4 mandated computer generated assessment tests required per year instead of the original paper test. There have also been ongoing technical problems with the state's on-line testing system.

Another added expense is the mandated annual opinion survey given to many students.

2) Secondary Standards:

According to the Heritage Foundation, there is no evidence that Common Core will improve academic outcomes or boost international competitiveness. The only two experienced educators to contribute to the standards refused to sign off on them.

The proposed Math standards being implemented are contrary to the long established research by Abraham Maslow (Hierarchy of Needs) and Benjamin Bloom (Taxonomy) demonstrating how humans develop mentally and emotionally. The standards expect levels of thinking that are not age appropriate, creating frustrations for both students and parents. In addition, these standards no longer include Algebra II and Trigonometry. How are students going to do college math?

Science standards have been produced, but without any Chemistry or Physics. The standards primarily address environmental science.

The English standards are abandoning the literature classics for new authors. I have seen this list and read some of the literature. Several listed books can only be described as legalized pornography. The requirement to learn cursive is being dropped, as well as many of the tools used to teach proper grammar, spelling and logic.

Government and Economics are already being dropped as required subjects by many schools.

Another problem with the Common Core standards is the one-size-fits-all approach. There is no room for exceptional students or students with learning disabilities. Exceptional students are often getting in trouble for wanting to excel while the standard itself states that it does not address students with disabilities.

3) College Preparedness:

Research shows that 20% of 4-year college students and 60% of 2-year college students must take remedial classes in order to continue college. Several states have already taken action to reverse these statistics. However, these actions are the opposite of the Common Core methods. Yet, the SAT entrance exam is already being changed to match Common Core.

4) Parental Academic Rights and Responsibility:

In the 1925 case of *Pearce vs. Society of Sisters*, the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously that children were not "the mere creature[s] of the state". Instead, the responsibility for education belongs to the child's parents or guardians and is a "liberty" protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. (268 U.S. 510, 535) Common Core will take this away from parents and their local school boards in violation of that ruling.

5) Government Control and Individual Freedoms, and Constitutional issues:

Common Core was not initiated through the Federal or state legislatures. In Kansas, it was introduced by Dr. Diane DeBacker, a salaried Kansas Department of Education employee. The State Board of Education did not see this program until *eight months* later.

Common Core is funded by the original Obama stimulus money cited above along with donations by Bill Gates and several educational and textbook businesses. These businesses stand to make enormous amounts of money at the expense of America's children. This Federal top-down control is clearly unconstitutional according to the US Constitution and that of Kansas.

Please seriously consider stopping Common Core in Kansas. Thank you for your time.