

spotlight

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60 QUESTIONS ABOUT COMMON CORE

Answers for North Carolinians

What we know about North Carolina's implementation of the Common Core State Standards has changed since the John Locke Foundation released *35 Questions About Common Core: Answers for North Carolinians* in April 2013. What has not changed is the demand for basic information about Common Core. As a result, we have revised and expanded the original study and maintained the Q&A format. We have also added subheadings to make it easier to identify topics.

The purpose of this updated primer is to continue to familiarize North Carolinians with the Common Core State Standards by answering some of the most frequently asked questions about common standards and tests. North Carolina taxpayers should use it as a first step in an ongoing effort to assess the massive changes underway in our public schools.

Background

1. What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

The Common Core State Standards are a series of grade-by-grade educational standards. Many states have added tests that correspond to the standards

2. What are educational standards?

There is no established definition of educational standards. According to the Common Core State Standards Initiative website, "Educational standards help teachers ensure their students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful by providing clear goals for student learning."¹ Unfortunately, that definition of educational standards is unclear. A better definition of educational standards states that they are "levels of achievement or expectation against which people and objects can be assessed."²

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3. Are educational standards the same thing as curriculum?

No. Nevertheless, educational standards form the basis of curriculum, guide classroom teaching, and are used in the development of standardized tests.

4. Which groups supported the development of Common Core standards?

Three Washington, D.C.-based organizations provided support – The National Governors Association, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Achieve, Inc. The Seattle, WA-based Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded a significant portion of the project.

5. Who wrote the Common Core standards?

The chief architects of the standards were three individuals, David Coleman, Susan Pimentel, and Jason Zimba, who have ties to one or more of the groups listed above. Coleman, Pimentel, and Zimba were assisted by committees of college professors, public school teachers, state education officials, consultants, and representatives from advocacy groups. According to two curriculum experts, “changes [to standards and curricula] are being dictated by a very select group that occupies the top of the educational food chain.... the folks making the changes—or at least writing and assessing the educational mandates—are far away from the majority of folks who need to implement the changes.”³

6. What grades do Common Core standards cover?

Public school children from kindergarten through twelfth-grade will be taught according to Common Core standards.

7. Which subjects do Common Core standards cover?

Currently, Common Core standards exist for English language arts and mathematics. However, the English and math standards require children to “read, write, and research across the curriculum, including in history and science.”⁴

8. Will other subjects be added?

Achieve, the National Research Council, the National Science Teachers Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, have released common science standards, called the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). On September 6, 2013, California became the sixth state to adopt the NGSS.⁵ Rhode Island, Kansas, Kentucky (tentative), Maryland, and Vermont have adopted the NGSS since the release of the standards in April 2013.⁶

In addition, The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages developed the National Standards for Learning Languages to complement the English language arts Common Core State Standards. Finally, the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards is leading the revision of the National Standards for Arts Education.

9. Are the Common Core English language arts standards high quality?

There is a great deal of debate about the quality of the Common Core English language arts standards. The new common standards are likely an improvement over North Carolina’s previous English standards but are still critically flawed. Chester E. Finn and Michael J. Petrilli of the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation argued that the Common Core English language arts standards are “clearly superior to the existing English standards of 37 states,” including North Carolina.⁷ On the other hand, in a detailed 2012 study, Sandra Stotsky, Professor of Education Reform at the University of Arkansas, and Mark Bauerlein, Professor of English at Emory University, concluded that the Common Core has deficient literature standards and a misplaced stress on literary nonfiction or information reading.⁸

10. Are Common Core mathematics standards high quality?

By most accounts, the Common Core mathematics standards are worse than the standards jettisoned by most states. Mathematics education writer Barry Garelick concluded that the Common Core math standards give students “a flimsy make-believe version of mathematics, without the ability to solve actual math problems.”⁹ Ze’ev Wurman, a former U.S. Department of Education official, observed, “It is not difficult to show that the Common Core standards are not on par with those of the highest-performing nations.” W. Stephen Wilson, professor of mathematics at Johns Hopkins University and member of the Common Core Validation Committee, agreed that the standards are “certainly not up there with the best of countries...or with the best state standards either.”¹⁰

11. To date, how many states have adopted Common Core?

Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, and four U.S. territories have adopted Common Core standards for one or both subjects.

12. Are Americans knowledgeable about Common Core?

According to the 45th annual PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, 62 percent of respondents said that they have never heard of Common Core. Only 55 percent of public school parents told pollsters that they were familiar with the standards. Of those who have heard of Common Core, only 41 percent believe that the standards will make public schools more internationally competitive.¹¹

13. Is Agenda 21 behind Common Core?

Opposition to Common Core must be based on facts, not theories. The fact that Common Core grants extraordinary power to the federal government and a handful of Washington, D.C.-based groups is a necessary and sufficient reason to oppose it. “Connect-the-dots” conspiracy theories diminish the legitimacy of that opposition and, in the long run, will only strengthen those who wish to broaden Common Core’s scope.

Common Core in North Carolina

14. When did North Carolina adopt the Common Core?

On June 2, 2010, the North Carolina State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the Common Core State Standards in both mathematics and English language arts.

15. Why did North Carolina adopt the Common Core?

State education officials offered six reasons why it was advantageous for the state to adopt common standards and tests. Reasons included the following: 1) equity; 2) college and career readiness; 3) state-to-state comparability of test results; 4) sharing of resources; 5) economies of scale; and 6) student mobility.¹² While these are laudable, some argue that North Carolina could realize all six ends using means other than Common Core.

16. Did the State Board of Education adopt Common Core based on evidence of its success?

No. Between the time of adoption and the statewide implementation of the Common Core standards, the standards had not been subject to field-testing.

17. How much will it cost to implement Common Core in North Carolina?

In a 2012 AccountabilityWorks report, researchers estimated that North Carolina public schools may spend as much as \$525 million over the next seven years, or an average of \$75 million per year, for professional development, textbooks and materials, and technology to implement the Common Core standards.¹³ The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, which supports the Common Core State Standards Initiative, calculated a lower estimate. They concluded that fully implementing common standards in North Carolina might require the state to spend as much as \$300 million.¹⁴ To date, the NC Department of Public Instruction has not released estimates of total expenditures.

18. What information does the NC Department of Public Instruction provide about Common Core?

Three years after the 2010 adoption of Common Core, the NC Department of Public Instruction developed a pro-Common Core web page, NC Common Core Explained (www.dpi.state.nc.us/core-explained). The page includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), podcasts, Power Point presentations, a timeline, and copies of the mathematics and English language arts standards themselves.¹⁵

19. Which North Carolina institutions, organizations, and companies have received funds to assist efforts to implement the Common Core? (Note: This is not an exhaustive list.)

2013

- N.C. State University (\$291,709 in federal funds)
- Meredith College (\$144,600 federal funds)
- Center for Quality Teaching, Inc. (\$249,471 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- National Paideia Center (\$659,788 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)

2012

- N.C. State University (\$281,214 in federal funds)

2011

- James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership (\$1,865,653 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Metametrics, Inc. (\$3,468,005 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (\$988,820 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- N.C. State University (\$258,000 in federal funds)
- Western Region Service Alliance (\$762,000 in federal funds)
- Central Carolina Region Service Alliance (\$762,000 in federal funds)
- N.C. State University (\$261,312 in federal funds)
- MCNC (\$36,463 in federal funds)
- N.C. State University (\$150,000 in federal funds)
- The SERVE Center at UNC-Greensboro; Friday Institute at N.C. State University; and the Carolina Institute for Public Policy at UNC-Chapel Hill (\$9,111,554 in federal funds)

2010

- James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership (\$1,673,623 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Center for Teaching Quality, Inc. (\$395,836 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Metametrics, Inc. (\$1,297,578 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
- Voyager Expanded Learning (\$88,000 in federal funds)

2009

- James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership (\$5,549,352 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)

2008

- James B. Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership (\$2,213,470 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)¹⁶

20. *What role did Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson play in the development of Common Core?*

Dr. Atkinson admitted to being part of the development of Common Core. In a blog post, she commented, “There are some who are making wild claims about the Common Core and what it is. I can tell you, because I was there at its very beginning, that it is not an effort that the federal government directed. I was there and was a part of the work so I have first-hand knowledge of the truth.”¹⁷

21. *Were any other North Carolinians involved?*

Professor Jere Confrey of the N.C. State University College of Education was the only North Carolinian identified as a participant in the forming of the standards. She declared, “Common Core State Standards represent an opportunity—once in a lifetime!”¹⁸

Federal Involvement

22. *Is the federal government involved in Common Core?*

Yes. On June 2, 2010, the U.S. Department of Education published a press release that declared, “The Department plans to support state implementation efforts by providing federal funds for high quality assessments, professional development to help teachers enhance the knowledge and skills needed to help students master the standards, and research to support continual improvement of the standards and assessments over time.”¹⁹

23. *What is the relationship between Common Core and the federal Race to the Top initiative?*

Shortly after their June 2010 announcement, the U.S. Department of Education enticed states to adopt the Common Core by tying approval of the standards to the \$4.5 billion federal Race to the Top competition. Adoption of the Common Core increased a state’s chances of obtaining a Race to the Top grant. Indeed, in his 2013 State of the Union address, President Barack Obama celebrated the federal government’s role in “encouraging” states to adopt Common Core. He declared, “Four years ago, we started Race to the Top—a competition that convinced almost every state to develop smarter curricula and higher standards.”²⁰

24. *Did adoption of Common Core help North Carolina receive a Race to the Top grant?*

Possibly. Three months after the N.C. State Board of Education unanimously approved Common Core English and math standards, the state received a four-year, \$400 million Race to the Top grant. In fact, all 10 states that received a Race to the Top grant in 2010 adopted Common Core standards.

25. *What is the relationship between the federal government and forthcoming Common Core tests?*

The federal government has bankrolled the development of Common Core tests. The Education Department will distribute \$360 million in grants to members of two state consortia, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers.²¹

Testing and Accountability

26. Is North Carolina a member of a Common Core testing consortium?

North Carolina is a member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. In its role as a governing state in this group, North Carolina will work with public education agencies from 25 other states and territories to shape test-design policy.

27. Will Common Core increase standardized testing?

We will not know the answer to that question until the two testing consortia finish the test development process. Nevertheless, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), estimated that testing would take between eight and ten hours. The other testing consortium, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, predicted that testing would take between seven and 8.5 hours to complete.²²

28. Will the Common Core tests be superior to standardized tests that are currently available?

Probably not. According to the Gordon Commission on the Future of Assessment in Education, “The progress made by the PARCC and Smarter Balanced consortia in assessment development, while significant, will be far from what is ultimately needed for either accountability or classroom instructional improvement purposes.”²³

29. Are North Carolina’s End-of-Grade and End-of-Course English and math tests aligned with Common Core?

Yes. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction developed Common Core-based tests that will serve as placeholders until the State Board of Education, with the approval of the N.C. General Assembly (see question 47), adopts a testing program from one of the consortia. These tests are aligned with the Common Core standards in K-12 English language arts and mathematics.

30. Are Common Core-based state tests high quality assessments?

The John Locke Foundation conducted an evaluation of North Carolina’s Common Core-based English tests and concluded that they are not high quality assessments. There were two primary shortcomings identified. 1) Contrary to the Common Core State Standards themselves, Common Core-based reading tests developed, administered, and released by the NC Department of Public Instruction include relatively few English language questions and no traditional grammar, spelling, mechanics, or usage questions. 2) Despite expectations that teachers spend equal amounts of time on nonfiction (“informational”) and literary texts, informational text questions outnumber literary texts in five of the six end-of-grade exams evaluated.²⁴

Common Core in the Classroom

31. Does Common Core put more pressure on North Carolina’s teachers?

Yes. In a February 2013 blog post, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson admitted, “Some teachers have said they feel like first-year teachers all over again, and that is ok. Changing to different standards does require more work for teachers in learning new course material, adjusting lesson plans and switching to new assessments.”²⁵

32. Are teachers, schools, and school districts prepared to implement Common Core?

According to an Editorial Projects in Education survey, 76 percent of teachers believed that students were not prepared to master the Common Core standards. In addition, 75 percent of classroom teachers believe that their states are not prepared to implement the Common Core. A slightly lower percentage of teachers (71 percent) observed that their school districts are not prepared to implement the Common Core.²⁶

33. Do teachers and principals believe that Common Core will raise student achievement?

Few teachers believe that Common Core will increase student performance. In one national survey, only 17 percent of teachers and 22 percent of principals report that they are very confident that the Common Core will improve the achievement of students. Similarly, only 20 percent of teachers and 24 percent of principals believe that the Common Core will better prepare students for college and the workforce.²⁷

34. Are private and home schools adopting Common Core?

Many private and home schools have adopted the Common Core standards. Others use curriculum programs that are entirely or partially based on the standards.²⁸

35. Why have private and home schools adopted the Common Core?

The reasons for adoption vary. One major concern shared by private and home school families is that failure to adopt Common Core will jeopardize college admission prospects. The architect of the Common Core State Standards, David Coleman, is President and Chief Executive Officer of the College Board. Coleman plans to align College Board tests, including PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, and Advanced Placement, to Common Core.²⁹ ACT, Inc. calls itself an “active partner with the Common Core State Standards Initiative.”³⁰ GED Testing Service, which is owned by major Common Core player Pearson, will align the GED to the standards.

Common Core and Data Collection

36. Do North Carolina’s public schools collect student data?

Yes. But student data collection started long before the adoption of Common Core. The three most recent data collection systems maintained by the NC Department of Public Instruction were SIMS, NC WISE, and SIS. The Student Information Management System (SIMS) was a statewide student information database developed in the late 1990s. Around 2001, the state piloted the North Carolina Window of Information for Student Education (NC WISE) in a handful of districts and rolled it out statewide as a permanent replacement for SIMS in 2004. In 2013, the NC Department of Public Instruction introduced the North Carolina Student Information System (SIS) as a replacement for NC WISE. NC SIS was developed by Pearson, Inc. and is called PowerSchool.

37. What kinds of data points are included?

In addition to recording students’ demographic and school performance information, PowerSchool also tracks extracurricular activities, student awards, scholarships, scholarship amounts, vaccinations, the names of vaccines, the dates vaccines were administered, medication names, reasons for medication, dosages, measurements, RX numbers, frequencies, instructions, and student vehicle make, models, years, colors, license plate numbers, and parking space numbers.³¹

38. What is inBloom?

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York provided the initial funding for a nonprofit organization called inBloom, Inc.³² Wireless Generation, a division of News Corp, provided the software infrastructure for inBloom products. inBloom offers several data management products, including computer technology that would provide administrators, teachers, and parents a single access point or portal to student information collected by the state. inBloom also offers the inBloom Data Store, an off-site (cloud-based) data storage system for school districts and states.

39. What is the relationship between inBloom and Common Core?

Companies and philanthropies that founded inBloom also funded the development of Common Core. As such, one of the main goals of inBloom, according to its website, is to give educators “a complete view of their students, including how students are tracking against national and local learning standards such as the Common Core.”³³

40. Are North Carolina school districts aiding inBloom’s efforts?

In 2012, inBloom reported working with pilot districts in New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Illinois, and Colorado.³⁴ In early 2013, inBloom listed Guilford County Schools and North Carolina as partners, but both have since been removed from the inBloom website. Guilford County School and state education officials have stated that no North Carolina school district will serve as an inBloom test site.

41. What is the relationship between data collection efforts and Common Core?

Data collection will continue, regardless of the trajectory of Common Core.

Common Core: Politics and the Law

42. Who supports Common Core, Republicans or Democrats?

There is no typical proponent or opponent of common standards. Support for common standards and tests can be found among Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals, and everything in between.

43. Where do North Carolina’s Republicans and Democrats stand on Common Core?

Similar to national trends, support for Common Core is bipartisan. In 2011, a bill passed by the Republican-led General Assembly and signed by Democratic Governor Bev Perdue mandated that the N.C. State Board of Education “continue to participate in the development of the Common Core State Standards” (See Questions 47 – 49).³⁵ Republican Governor Pat McCrory and his appointed chairman of the State Board of Education, former Congressman Bill Cobey, support the ongoing implementation of the standards.

44. Have any prominent elected officials questioned the adoption and implementation of Common Core?

Yes. On July 18, 2013, Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest issued a 67-question letter to the N.C. Department of Instruction that outlined a series of unanswered questions regarding North Carolina’s adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards.³⁶ Coincidentally, Lieutenant Governor Forest was not satisfied with the response to the questions in the letter.³⁷

45. Did the N.C. General Assembly address Common Core during the 2013 session?

Yes. House Bill 733, sponsored by Representatives Larry Pittman (R-Cabarrus), Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke), Rob Bryan (R-Mecklenburg), and Michael Speciale (R-Beaufort, Craven, Pamlico), would have created a Common Core study committee, but the bill stalled in a House committee. Legislators did not address two existing statutes that direct the state to implement Common Core standards and assessments, but did approve a provision that requires the State Board of Education to receive legislative approval before they purchase any Common Core testing program.

46. Has Common Core been codified in North Carolina law?

Yes. N.C. General Statutes 115C 12 and 115C 174.11 direct the State Board of Education to implement Common Core standards and tests. The testing approval provision approved during the 2013 Session has yet to be added to state statute.

47. What do the state statutes say?

Three passages in the North Carolina General Statutes mention Common Core. They are as follows:

G.S. 115C 12: The State Board shall adopt rigorous academic standards for accreditation after consideration of (i) the standards of regional and national accrediting agencies, (ii) the Common Core Standards adopted by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers, and (iii) other information it deems appropriate.

G.S. 115C 174.11: The State Board of Education shall continue to participate in the development of the Common Core State Standards in conjunction with the consortium of other states, review all national assessments developed by both multistate consortia, and implement the assessments that the State Board deems most appropriate to assess student achievement on the Common Core State Standards.

G.S. 115C 174.12 (forthcoming): Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 115C-174.11(c), the State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee prior to the purchase and implementation of a new assessment instrument to assess student achievement on the Common Core State Standards, including the Common Core Smarter Balance Consortium Assessments. The State Board shall not purchase such an assessment instrument without the enactment of legislation by the General Assembly authorizing the purchase.

48. Who is responsible for putting Common Core into state law?

Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke) and Bryan Holloway (R-Rockingham, Stokes) were the primary sponsors of House Bill 342/S.L. 2011-306, which added the 115C 12 language. Jerry Tillman (R-Moore, Randolph), Jean Preston (deceased), and Dan Soucek (R-Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Watauga) included the 115C 174.11 provision in Senate Bill 479/S.L. 2011-280. General Statute 115C 174.12 was included in the 2013-15 state budget, that is, Senate Bill 402/S.L. 2013-360.

49. What are the legal and constitutional issues raised by Common Core?

Jeanette Doran and Tyler Younts of the N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law have written a five-part series that answers that question in detail. Go to www.ncicl.org and click on the White Papers and Policy Briefings link to obtain their analyses.

Common Core: Opposition and Support

50. *What would be required for North Carolina to withdraw from Common Core?*

First, it would take a change of heart. A majority of elected officials in Raleigh either back Common Core or believe that it is too late to change course. Second, it would take a change in law. Although the law appears to give the N.C. State Board of Education some discretion in curriculum and testing matters, the North Carolina General Assembly would have to revise or repeal statutes that direct the State Board of Education to implement Common Core standards and tests.³⁸

51. *Is it too late to replace the Common Core standards and/or withdraw from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium?*

No. The states have the responsibility to fund and maintain systems of public education. Article I, Section 15 of the North Carolina Constitution affirms, “The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.”³⁹

52. *Are state legislators in other states filing legislation to sever their states’ ties to Common Core?*

Yes. Legislators in Utah, Indiana, Georgia, Kansas, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, and South Dakota have introduced bills to withdraw from Common Core.⁴⁰

53. *How do Common Core proponents address criticism of the standards?*

Unfortunately, proponents increasingly accuse critics of Common Core of being liars, conspiracy theorists, or crackpots.⁴¹ In a June 6, 2013 op-ed, for example, Chester E. Finn Jr. and Michael J. Petrilli of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute wrote, “For some time now, outside groups have been vigorously spreading misinformation about the Common Core State Standards. The effort has been relentless, and North Carolina has not been immune to the falsehoods.”⁴² State Superintendent June Atkinson remarked, “I just find it distressing that people have chosen to believe people who are actually lying, and I don’t use that word very often.”⁴³

54. *Have any North Carolina school boards publicly questioned the adoption of Common Core?*

Yes. On September 3, 2013, the New Hanover Board of Education passed a resolution that asked the North Carolina State Board of Education and the North Carolina General Assembly to “clarify the standards, assessments and financial commitment by engaging in full public discussions.”⁴⁴

55. *Are there books that take a closer look at Common Core?*

Aside from the hundreds of curriculum guides to the Common Core, there are two books that address some of the problems with the standards. Kris L Nielsen’s *Children of the Core* is the most popular book-length critique of Common Core. Darcy Pattison’s *What is Common Core* is a helpful, generally evenhanded introduction. Nielsen’s *Uncommon: The Grassroots Movement to Save Our Children and Their Schools* and Lance Izumi’s *Obama’s Education Takeover* both contain lengthy discussions of Common Core. Christopher Tienken and Donald Orlich also assess Common Core in *The School Reform Landscape: Fraud, Myth, and Lies*.

56. *Is there a website where I can go to get more information about opposition to Common Core in North Carolina?*

Yes. Go to Stop Common Core NC (StopCommonCoreNC.com) for the latest information, news, research, and commentary.

57. Are there other websites where I can go to get more information about those who oppose Common Core in other states?

- Stop Common Core: StopCommonCore.com
- Truth in American Education: TruthInAmericanEducation.com
- Californians United Against Common Core: cuacc.org
- Common Core Education Without Representation: WhatIsCommonCore.wordpress.com
- Common Core Facts: CommonCoreFacts.blogspot.com
- Hoosiers Against Common Core: HoosiersAgainstCommonCore.com
- Keep Education Local: KeepEducationLocal.com
- Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research: [PioneerInstitute.org / common-core](http://PioneerInstitute.org/common-core)
- Stop Common Core in New York State: StopCCSSInNYS.com
- Stop Common Core in Wisconsin: StopCommonCoreInWisconsin.com
- Utahns Against Common Core: UtahnsAgainstCommonCore.com
- Where's the Math?: [WheresTheMath.com / math-standards / common-core-state-standards](http://WheresTheMath.com/math-standards/common-core-state-standards)
- Conservative Teachers of America: ConservativeTeachersOfAmerica.com
- Kentuckians Against Common Core: KentuckiansAgainstCommonCoreStandards.com
- Home School Legal Defense Association: hsllda.org

58. Is there a website where I can go to get more information about proponents of Common Core in North Carolina?

Yes. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Common Core Explained website (dpi.state.nc.us/core-explained) contains materials that explain their reasons for adoption of the standards.

59. Are there other websites where I can go to get more information about those who support Common Core in other states?

- Common Core Standards Initiative: CoreStandards.org
- Conservatives for Higher Standards: [HigherCorestandards.org / supporters](http://HigherCorestandards.org/supporters)
- Thomas B. Fordham Institute: EdExcellence.net
- The Foundation for Excellence in Education: ExcelInEd.org
- Military Child Education Coalition: MilitaryChild.org
- Mission: Readiness: MissionReadiness.org
- National Association of Manufacturers: nam.org
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce: USChamber.com
- Council of Chief State School Officers: ccsso.org
- National Governors Association: nga.org
- Achieve, Inc.: Achieve.org
- The Business Roundtable: BusinessRoundtable.org
- The National Education Association: nea.org
- National School Boards Association: nsba.org
- ExxonMobil: [ExxonMobil.com / Corporate / community_math_other.aspx](http://ExxonMobil.com/Corporate/community_math_other.aspx)

60. *Who is leading the fight against Common Core in North Carolina?*

A handful of research, education, and grassroots organizations have raised questions about the adoption and implementation of the Common Core State Standards. These include the following:

- John Locke Foundation: *JohnLocke.org*
- Civitas Institute: *NCCivitas.org*
- Americans for Prosperity – NC: *AmericansForProsperity.org*
- N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law: *ncicl.org*
- FreedomWorks – NC: *FreedomWorks.org*

In addition, a number of parents and activists are working in their local communities to slow or stop Common Core.

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End notes

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4. Common Core State Standards Initiative, "Myths vs. Facts," corestandards.org/resources/myths-vs-facts.
5. National Center for Science Education, "California adopts NGSS," September 6, 2013, ncse.com/news/2013/09/california-adopts-ngss-0015018.
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