

SCRIPT 9

CURRICULUM & TESTING MADE UNIFORM WHEN MOVING STATE TO STATE

Good evening Superintendent _____ and honored board members. My name is _____.

I am a retired teacher, or _____.

You have just heard the concerns of my colleagues regarding The Common Core State Standards.

I want to preface my comments concerning The Common Core State Standards to encourage you to place on your agenda an open discussion of The Common Core State Standards, so that parents will know what is in this program.

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These are my concerns: We are told that the purpose of The Common Core State Standards is that the curriculum and testing is uniform throughout the country so when students move, they won't have transition problems among school districts.

Actually, the U.S. Census states *only 2% of all people move across state lines in any given year.*

Although the Common Core State Standards dictate what students should learn in a given year, they do not dictate the sequence of the learning topics.

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Example: a student may learn material one year, move to another state the following year and would be relearning the same material or have moved to a totally different state and found those students had learned something else the year before.

This thought process, in no way, would improve student mobility. Students will study fewer ideas and facts, but they'll be expected to know more about those facts they do study. We are told that The Common Core State Standards will help teachers improve their craft because it will allow them to collaborate and learn from teachers around the country.

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Actually, School districts around the country are already spending a significant amount of money on professional development and teachers routinely collaborate within their schools, districts and across the country.

In addition, there are hundreds of websites that enable teachers to be able to share or sell their lessons with other teachers around the country. We are giving up our authority to others where we will have no voice at all *"but will continue to be 'allowed' to pay the bills."*

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And finally, we are told that The **Common Core State Standards is a curriculum that cannot be changed, those are the rules. Should a school district find that the math program is insufficient, and reflect very low expectations; the Common Core Math Curriculum cannot be changed. Should parents find the language arts program isn't giving their students the classical literature that is the foundation of our nation, it cannot be changed.**

We know that classical literature teaches children to: investigate their surroundings; to make wise decisions, to have empathy; it teaches them how to exercise their liberties. Books like Moby Dick, Uncle

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Tom's Cabin, and Huckleberry Finn will not be read by the students. The program cannot be changed.

Please consider adding to your agenda an open hearing regarding The Common Core State Standards, so that parents can know what is in this unproven, untested with an unknown price tag that is nothing but a pilot program in which our children are the test subjects.

Do you really want that for your children and for this country as a whole? Would you let your children fly on an airplane that has never been tested?

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Please review this important information while you still can exercise your power as a member that is part of the local school board, *for which you were voted into by those who pay school taxes here in*

_____.

Thank you.