

Over the last several years a group of Kentucky parents, grandparents, teachers and concerned citizens, have been working to remove the Federal Common Core Education Standards that were forced through by former Governor Steve Beshear, former Commissioners of Education Terry Holliday and Gene Wilhoite and House strongman Greg Stumbo.

But, we have fought hard against this Federal experimentation in local schools because the standards are flawed, the incentives they produce are twisted, and the testing is excessive and their use in national and commercial databases are an intrusion on our children's privacy.

Now, a few years after installing this blunder, there are larger gaps of performance between black and white and between poor and affluent students in Kentucky schools. Education Next surveys show support for Common Core among teachers in 2016 has declined to only 44%. Total assessment and KPREP testing of 5th and 8th graders consumes over 31 hours out of the school year. 4 states, Virginia, Texas, Nebraska and Alaska never adopted the standards and won't while Minnesota only adopted the English standards and developed their own for math and science. 9 states adopted and then repealed the standards – Indiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, West Virginia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Tennessee. Utah, Georgia, Alabama, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Florida and Ohio have pulled out of the Common Core (PARCC) testing consortium. Wyoming, North Carolina, Michigan, and Iowa have bills to pull out of the Common Core testing also.

Back in Kentucky, we wait. KACC has talked to many legislators and KDE administrators in Frankfort and in our own districts. The answer to our concerns was always that Democratic leadership in the House prevents any action Common Core in Kentucky and that nothing could be done until the house was flipped. Well, Tuesday, the House flipped.

NOW is the time for action. There are no excuses. NOW is the time to replace the CC standards with pre-common Core Massachusetts standards while new standards are being drawn up.

Immediately end KPREP testing. Reduce the entire assessment testing time our children are forced to endure. Allow for parents to opt THEIR children out of testing. Begin the process, with parents, academic educators and in class teachers, to write new standards.

The people of KY gave Governor Bevin what he needed to get sensible school standards in place.

Now, the time for action has come and it must come quickly.

Thank you,

Karl Steutermann

President

Kentuckians Against Common Core