



The Truth About Education Reform

By Alice Linahan

1.0 What is the Fundamental “Shift” in Education happening today?

There is a fundamental “SHIFT” occurring in education today. Some will say it is 21st Century Learning. The truth is, there is nothing 21st Century about it. It is the same battle that’s been fought in the past and pushed back by PARENTS and Teachers!!

Why, because parents and teachers understood just how harmful this is to children our families and our nation.

The “**SHIFT**” is NOT liberal vs conservative. Many liberal and conservative parents and educators are horrified by what they are seeing in the classrooms. The fundamental shift in education we are talking about is changing from a transmission of knowledge, that parents still expect from our schools, to an emphasis on altering the students world-views, their values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors.

When education is focused on how students perceive the world, that is known as critical theory or cultural marxism. Two great exposes that clearly show the affects of this emphasis in history and literature can be found in these two books by university professors, Keith Windschuttle, ‘The Killing of History’ and John Ellis’ ‘Literature Lost: Social Agendas and the Corruption of the Humanities’.

It is clearly seen in the College Board’s SAT and AP (Advanced Placement) assessments and conceptual frameworks which can be described as “**Transdisciplinary**” in their purpose.

Transdisciplinary is when the function of the subject matter, concept themes in the syllabus, and course frameworks are all used to guide how a student views the world. The technical term most commonly used is lenses. Effectively these lenses become the values, attitudes, and beliefs the students are to be taking away from the curriculum.

It is about equalizing and controlling the economy of America. You are no longer that boy from Argyle, Texas who played baseball and was a Boy Scout. You are now a global citizen who happens to live in America. Not an Individual and Not an **AMERICAN**.

Nationalism is destroyed.

2.0 What is the **Common Core**?

Purposes Behind **Common Core**

- **Shifts Education Philosophy**- from an education of Opportunity (Equal Opportunity) based on academics; reading, writing, math and history to an education of equity (Equal Outcomes) based on attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviors.
- **Broadened Impact** - The Common Core National Standards expand the target from K-12 (Kindergarten through 12th grade) to a P-20 (Pre-school through College, Trade or Graduate School) system.
- **Testing Based Outcomes**- The Common Core National Standards shifts from the “Mental” (Academics and Knowledge Based Tests) to “Behaviors” (Performance Standards and Competency for the workforce).
- **Adjustments to Ideology**- Change American’s worldview from nationalism into globalism and allows for a government controlled economy known as “Dirigisme” or the more common use—a dirigiste economy. It means essentially a state directed economy.
- **Dismantle traditional public schools**- in favor of charter like structures (public/private partnerships) that will be forced to generate student data for corporate profit and state control.

3.0 How are students affected?

A Workforce Development Model of Education

Common Core Reading Concepts Embrace:

- Social Justice-
- Situational Text-
- The Look-Say Method

“A phonetically fluent reader has unrestrained access to information.

A sight -reader does not. Language is the tool of logical and analytical thought. Sight-reading keeps that toolbox both relatively empty and filled only with the word tools someone has deliberately placed there.” - Robin Eubanks

Common Core Math Concepts Embrace:

- Flipped Classroom-
- Facilitation vs. Teaching —
- Promotes Democratic Socialism

Through **Common Core**, what knowledge there is comes as pre-supplied concepts. Not the concepts an individual develops in the privacy of their own mind after considering the linkages among the relevant facts he or she knows on a given topic.

Common Core has a dominant skill emphasis. Why would any reasonable person believe a dynamic, prosperous economy comes from making the focus on an ability to communicate or to be part of a team or to Problem Solve?

The reality is that **Common Core** is designed to make genuine innovation very unlikely if not impossible. We as a society certainly will not benefit if innovation becomes unlikely.

4.0 Common Core-Political Designs?

Common Core = Federalizing Education= Controlled Economy Through the Workforce!

Common Core is a strategy to Globalize Education

- Progressive Federalism [Framework for developing a political community committed to justice]
- Anticipatory Democracy [Justify governments at all levels becoming the decision-makers]
- Redemptive Constitutionalism [The Constitution is an inter-generational project - Work in Progress]

Overlap between the “Right and Left” in America

Central Commitments

- Progressives focus on the achievement of political and social equality
- Popular Constitutionlists on formal equality in political decision making
- Both focused away from the Framers’ intent, and towards the future

“Governance is the process by which we collectively solve our problems and meet our society’s needs. Government is the instrument we use. The instrument is outdated, and the process of reinvention has begun. We do not need another New Deal, nor another Reagan Revolution. We need an American perestroika.”- Osborne and Gaebler 1992

Perestroika - the Russian program of economic and political reform in the Soviet Union initiated by Mikhail Gorbachev

5.0 Who makes \$\$ on Common Core ?

Public Private Partnerships Bread Crony Capitalism

“A friend who used to say, "There's money in poor people." When I first heard it, I didn't quite understand what she meant. But as the number of the profit-driven schemes proliferate - always promoted in the name of helping guarantee that every child receive a quality education - her meaning is getting clearer all the time.”- Diann Woodard

Common Core creates wealth for Educrats.

- 3 R's in Education- There is money to be made on new education products when education shifts from Reading, Writing and Arithmetic to Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships.
- Professional Development- There is money to be made from on going training of teachers and administrators on the latest and greatest 21st Century Learning.
- Non-pofit NGO (Non-government Organizations)— TASA (Texas Association of School Administrators), TASB (Texas Association of School Boards),
- Lobby Organizations -

6.0 Attitudes, Values and Beliefs

Why not teach young people about Attitudes, Values and Beliefs

Whose Attitudes, Values and Beliefs are behind **Common Core**?

The US Department of Ed has a report: Promoting Grit, Tenacity, and Perseverance: Critical Factors for Success in the 21st Century which came out February 14, 2013.

There is money to be made on new education products when education shifts from Reading, Writing and Arithmetic to Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships or promoting Grit, Tenacity and Perseverance. The challenge is, these products are based around teaching strategies that are not about teaching knowledge, they are about controlling the minds of the next generation.

In Texas we said “No” to the **Common Core** National Standards. Our legislators actually wrote legislation making it illegal. BUT..... Ask your child or grandchild in Texas **WHAT** and **HOW** they are learning in school and I can guarantee you they are being taught using the teaching strategies grounded in “Outcome Based Education.” Why is that?

Our elected officials are approving funding for Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)’s New Vision of Texas Public Schools, which is first and foremost involved in the professional development of Superintendents and in the development of Texas High Performance Standards for College and Career Ready- 21st Century Learning funneling through the 20 Education Service Centers (ESCs).

7.0 What Happened to **Textbooks** In Texas?

In the 21st Century we use - **Instructional Materials**

The Shift from Textbooks to IM's

Before SB 6 (2011), the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted a list of conforming textbooks (i.e., *instructional materials – IM's). The conforming IM's were required to cover 100% of TEKS (**Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills**) for the subject and grade level. Nonconforming IM's were required to cover at least 50% of the TEKS for the subject and grade level.

School districts could adopt IM's that covered at least 70% of the TEKS for the enrichment curriculum (i.e., CTE, fine arts, health education, languages other than English, P. E., and technology applications).

All of the aforementioned IM's allowed school districts to use state funding to pay for them.

Now under SB 6, the IM's only have to cover 50% of the TEKS (even though school districts by law are required to cover 100% of the TEKS,) and be used for online curriculum management systems such as (CSCOPE) and can be used for professional development of teachers to use the IM's purchased by the school district.

***Definition of "instructional materials"** – *"The term includes a book, supplementary materials, a combination of a book, workbook, and supplementary materials, computer software, magnetic media, DVD, CD-ROM, computer courseware, on-line services, or an electronic medium, or other means of conveying information to the student or otherwise contributing to the learning process through electronic means, including open-source instructional material. (Texas Education Code, Title 2. Public Education, Subtitle F. Curriculum, Programs, and Services, Chapter 31. Instructional Materials, Subchapter A. General Provisions, Sec. 31.002, Definitions, Instructional Material –*

8.0 A Revolution in Education

The move to Remold the American High school through School Choice

- Public schools are in crisis, not because they are failing but because they are being set up to fail.
- School Choice must be defined as a mother, father or guardian has the right to give their child the best education possible.

“Parents, who are the first and forever educators of their children, are the only people who hold the right to determine “the best interests of their child”.

Everyone one else has an agenda that puts their best interests over those of the child and they have done so by taking control of our government.

Their hope is that we continue to fight the false battles they lay down before us and forget that we, the parents, are the sole authority in determining the education and upbringing of our children.”

- The vision to Nationalize education clearly laid out the pathway to the nationalization of education is through “School Choice.”

That is, if you define **“School Choice”** as rights given to parents by the state and federal government.

9.0 No Choice and No Voice

‘Obama’s Equity in Education Plan’ for our entire country:

- charter schools replace public schools:
- everyone has federal Title I choice funds to go to any school (charter, private or religious schools)
- every child is taught the same standards:
- every teacher must teach the same standards:
- every test must be aligned to these standards:
- curriculum and software is aligned to standards:
- everything listed here is aligned to **government data collection compliance.**

There were three major actions under the Obama administration, without legislative approval, to change two hundred years of traditional public education in the United States.

- (1) The **Common Core** copyright, which created a national curriculum and national testing mandating that individual students meet individual standards (similar to the Obamacare individual mandate).
- (2) **Unlocking data** 'to flow' through the Family Education Rights in Privacy Act, FERPA, which allows personally identifiable information on our children to flow to outside 3rd party contractors for research and curriculum development to match Common Core.
- (3) **No Child Left Behind Flexibility Waiver**, (ESEA, Elementary and Secondary Education Act), that is re-training teachers to teach to Common Core. ESEA was re-authorized in Dec. 2015 and renamed **(Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Standards were rebranded as College and Career Readiness.**

This also allowed ALL children in public school to be funded under Title I by changing the definition of who is poor or educationally deprived to anyone not meeting Common Core. (Free and reduced lunch guidelines of 40% school wide were dropped to 0%.)

These three important points control standards and testing, curriculum, and teachers with all public school children being funded under Title I.

Parents must ask...

CAN I SEE?

- **Can I See WHAT** Data is being collected on my child?
- **Can I See HOW** my child's data is being used?
- **Can I See WHO** is financially benefitting from the data collected on my child?

QUESTIONS FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN:

- Why are school districts and the TEA (Texas Education Agency) collecting information on children?
- Why does the State want such intimate details on our kids and what are they doing with it?
- Were you notified that your school district was collecting this information? Where is the transparency they talk about?
- How do you verify the information collected if you don't know it's being collected?
- Are you concerned that this type of data could impact your child's future?
- Are you concerned about the district's and TEA's responsibility in all this to collect and house this hackable data?
- If your child graduated or has left school since 2008, has your school district notified you?
- Who owns the data? Is the District or TEA claiming ownership of private data collected on your child without your knowledge?
- Did you know that the medical information of a student is no longer protected by HIPPA?
- Private data about a child's mental health issues are maintained without parental knowledge at the District and state of TX - WITHOUT HIPPA protection. Just how many government employees will have access to all this private data?

Women On the Wall-Take Action-

The Truth About **Common Core**

Secure Your Own Child or Grandchild First

If the Common Core is adversely affecting your child's school, take precautions to solidify your own child's education first.

Become an Expert

The most critical factor in fighting the federal take over of education is you! The more informed you are as an activist, the more influential you will be in getting others to listen to you and join in your efforts.

Become Involved at Your Child's School

Parents aren't effective on the sidelines. Use the newly acquired research to inform others in your child's school.

Speak Out on Next Generation Assessments/College and Career Ready/Common Core

Getting the facts to the public is a top priority. Create a flyer with information about Common Core, and distribute it far and wide. Speak out at public education meetings. School official meetings are a great place to

Seek the Truth - Share the Truth and STAND up for the TRUTH!

Influence Your Legislators

Put on your suit and head to the statehouse! Decisions about education policy are made at the statehouse by legislators who, unfortunately, hear from numerous lobbyists and few constituents. Remember, the statehouse is the people's house, so do not be intimidated by it. As a citizen, you have the right and the responsibility to speak to your legislators.

- Resources for the Battles Ahead-

The Truth About **Common Core**



www.WomenOnTheWall.org Weekly Conference Calls

Follow Alice Linahan's Blog at www.Voicesempower.com