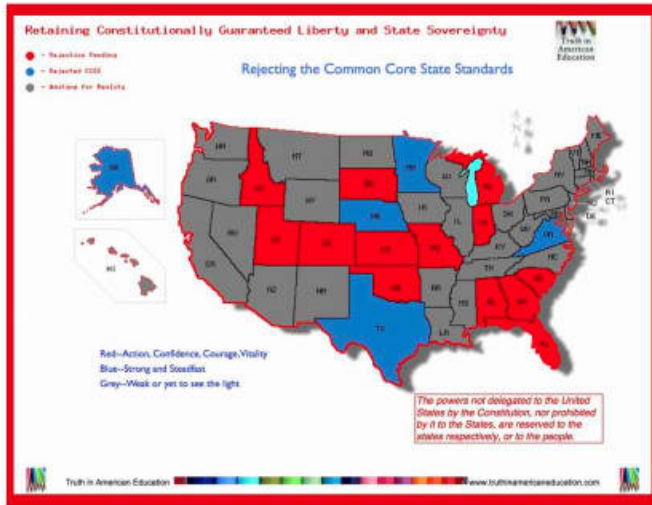


# Rotten to the Core, Part III: Lessons from Texas and the Growing Grassroots Revolt

By Michelle Malkin • March 1, 2013 09:28 AM

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Click [here for full-size map](#) from Common Core watchdog **Truth in American Education**

This is Part III in my continuing series on the rotten Common Core nationalized academic standards scheme. Read Part I [here](#) and Part II [here](#). Read feedback/reaction from parents, educators and activists [here](#).

Here's a handy primer on **"How to Fight the Common Core"** from Shane Vander Hart.

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Rotten to the Core, Part III: Lessons from Texas and the Growing Grassroots Revolt

by Michelle Malkin

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Texas is a right-minded red state, where patriotism is still a virtue and political correctness is out of vogue. So how on earth have left-wing educators in public classrooms been allowed to instruct Lone Star students to dress in Islamic garb, call the 9/11 jihadists "freedom fighters" and treat the Boston Tea Party participants as "terrorists"?

Here's the dirty little secret: Despite the best efforts of vigilant parents, teachers and administrators committed to academic excellence, progressive activists reign supreme in government schools.

That's because curriculum is king. The liberal monopoly on the modern textbook/curricular market remains unchallenged after a half-century. He who controls the textbooks, teaching guides and tests controls the academic agenda.



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## Maxine Waters: Sequester will cost 170 million Americans their jobs

February 28, 2013 04:13 PM by Doug Powers

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31	41
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Unemployageddon

## Lanny Davis: Bob Woodward's not the only reporter/columnist to get pushback from the White House

February 28, 2013 02:15 PM by Doug Powers

49 Comments



Flack took flak?

## Parody video: Evolution of Liberal Dance

February 27, 2013 07:55 PM by Michelle Malkin



That is how the propagandistic outfitting of students in Islamic garb came to pass in the unlikely setting of the conservative Lumberton, Texas, school district. As Fox News reporter Todd Starnes noted this week, a 32-year veteran of the high school led a world geography lesson on Islam in which hijab-wrapped students were banned from using the words “suicide bomber” and “terrorist” to describe Muslim mass murderers in favor of the term **“freedom fighter.”**

Madelyn LeBlanc, one of the students in the class, “told Fox News that it was clear her teacher was very uncomfortable lecturing the students. ‘I do have a lot of sympathy for her. ... At the very beginning, she said she didn’t want to teach it, but it was in the curriculum.’”

But the headline-grabbing injection of moral equivalence into social studies and American history is just the tip of the education iceberg.

Top-down federalized “Common Core” standards are now sweeping the country. It’s important to remember that while teachers-union control freaks are on board with the Common Core regime, untold numbers of rank-and-file educators are just as angered and frustrated as parents about the Big Ed power grab. The program was concocted not at the grassroots level, but by a bipartisan cabal of nonprofits (led by lobbyists for the liberal Bill Gates Foundation), statist business groups and hoodwinked Republican governors. As I’ve reported previously, this scheme, enabled by the Obama administration’s “Race to the Top” funding mechanism, usurps local autonomy in favor of lesson content and pedagogical methods.

One teacher described a thought-control training seminar in her school district titled “Making the Common Core Come Alive.” A worksheet labeled **“COMMON CORE MIND SHIFTS”** included the following rhetorical muck:

—The goal of curriculum should not be the coverage of content, but rather the discovery of content. ... If done well, Common Core will elevate our teaching to new heights, and emphasize the construction of meaning, while deepening our understanding of our students.”

—“In our classrooms, it is the students’ voices, not the teachers’, that are heard.”

Blah, blah, blah. In practice, Common Core evades transparency by peddling shoddy curricular material authored by anonymous committees. It promotes faddish experiments masquerading as “world-class” math and reading goals. Instead of raising expectations, Common Core is a Trojan horse for lowering them. California, for example, is now citing Common Core as a rationale for **abandoning algebra classes for 8th graders**. Common Core’s “constructivist” approach to reading is now the rationale for abandoning classic literature for “informational texts.” [See **Dr. Sandra Stotsky’s alternative English language standards here**, which she is offering to any school district/educators for free.]

Claims that Common Core bubbled up from the states are bass-ackward. A shady nonprofit group called “Achieve Inc.” stocked with federal-standards advocates who’ve been around since the Clinton years, designed the materials. They were rubber-stamped by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and subsidized by the Gates Foundation. [See **the Pioneer Institute here** for background on how the money game works and how some conservative groups have been duped/bought off.]

In states like Texas, which *rejected* Common Core, similar secretive alliances prevail. The **Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative, a nonprofit group led by government officials, designed the “CSCOPE” curriculum** now used in 80 percent of the state’s schools. The state Board of Education, local schools and parents were denied access to the online CSCOPE curriculum database — which was exempted from disclosure rules. In fact, dissemination of the lessons was considered a crime until earlier this month. Only after parents and teachers across the state blew the whistle on radical

February 27, 2013 07:55 PM by Michelle Malkin

102 Comments



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February 27, 2013 11:51 AM by Doug Powers

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“Political prop”

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February 27, 2013 08:24 AM by Michelle Malkin

200 Comments

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February 26, 2013 10:34 PM by Doug Powers

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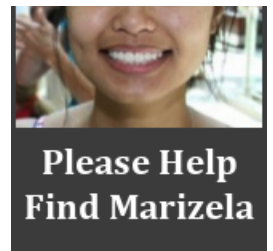


“The president has the prerogative”

### Rest easy, because President Obama’s paycheck is exempted from the sequester

February 26, 2013 12:37 PM by Doug Powers

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**Twitchy**

» Gov. Jindal: WH is fighting Woodward instead of out-of-control spending; Time reporter sneers

**Betsys Page**

» The Armageddon that isn’t

**Twitchy**

» Hilarious: Editor of The Nation boasts that her ‘smart’ interns ‘have no idea who Woodward is’

**Hot Air**

» Was Kerry winging it on Syria?

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» Video: How to win the Sequestrocalypse

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» Global warming cools off

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» Will Obama Administration Condemn Erdogan Over Zionism Remarks?

**Twitchy**

» Maxine Waters: Sequestration could result in loss of ‘over 170 million jobs’



CSCOPE lesson plans (including **designing a new flag for a socialist lesson**) did the state take steps to rein in the CSCOPE zealots.

Grassroots activists in Indiana, Alabama, Utah and nearly a dozen other states are now educating themselves and their state legislatures about the centralized education racket, whether it's under the guise of Common Core or any other name. Last week, in response to a passionate parent-driven protest, the **Indiana state Senate passed legislation to halt Common Core implementation**. Anti-Common Core bills are **moving** through the **Alabama state legislature**, where lawmakers are especially concerned about how Common Core's intrusive database gathering would violate student privacy.

As Texas goes, so goes the nation. The **fight against the federalization of academic standards** is a national education Alamo.

\*\*\*

Previous/related:

**Fuzzy math: A nationwide epidemic**

**Everyday Math = junk**

**Obama's Sputter-nik moment: Cash for Education Clunkers**

January 2005: **NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND, ACT II**

February 2005: **THE REVOLT AGAINST NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND**

**Stupid education fad of the day: "Mayan Math"**

\*\*\*

More resources/background/links:

**Barry Garelick: A New Kind of Problem: The Common Core Math Standards**

EmpoweredGA.org – Georgia activists: **Here, here, here** and **here**.

**Pennsylvania revolt against TERC Investigations math.**

<http://truthinamericaneducation.com/>

<http://www.utahnsagainstopcommoncore.com/>

**Indiana: hoosiersagainstopcommoncore.com**

<http://stopcommoncore.com/>

\*\*\*

And more:

**"Related Websites" from Truth in American Education** has links to all of the following:

Alabamians United for Excellence in Education

Arizonans Against Common Core

Californians United Against Common Core

Closing the Door on Innovation Why One National Curriculum Is Bad for America

Common Core: Education Without Representation

Common Core Facts

Hoosiers Against Common Core

Keep Education Local

Missouri Coalition Against Common Core

Pioneer Institute Public Policy Research: Academic Standards

Stop Common Core: Reclaiming Local Control in Education



Exceptions

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February 25, 2013 10:54 PM by Doug Powers

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## See what others have said

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### Comments

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:10 am, **CO2 Producer** said: # 1

In our classrooms, it is the students' voices, not the teachers', that are heard.

Not only do teachers need to be skilled at questioning and leading meaningful discussions, but students need to assume responsibility for asking important questions and initiating rich conversations as well. What the standards demand from our students is a greater focus on metacognitive activities that encourage them to reflect and talk about their own understandings and beliefs, while listening to the understandings, reactions, and motivations of others. It can be as simple as using "Why" questions or asking students what they notice about something that can help to propel students' conversations forward.

The Common Core demands that our students continually gather evidence, **make generalizations**, apply concepts, and represent their thinking in different ways. Students are expected to actively construct meaning from content, a process which is strengthened through student dialogue. Through meaningful, planned time to talk, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their understandings and confusion, while elaborating on their own ideas and building on others' thinking using evidence from their learning.

"What do you think was the main motivation for the Civil War?"

"I think the Civil War was mainly about the fight to free the slaves."

"I can tell you've given this subject a lot of thought and discussion, so you must be right."

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:10 am, **Hiraghm** said: # 2

Texas is a right-minded red state, where patriotism is still a virtue and political correctness is out of vogue.

And how much time have you actually spent in Texas among Texicans... and Mexicans and others from south of the border?

Houston... hotbed of right-wing, original intent, small government reactionaries. Just like Austin and San Antonio...

/sarc

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:13 am, **Marshall\_Will** said:  
MM said,

#3

led a world geography lesson on Islam **in which hijab-wrapped students** were banned from using the words “suicide bomber” and “terrorist” to describe Muslim mass murderers in favor of the term “freedom fighter.”

So how was *school* today dear?

What the..?

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:21 am, **Pasadena Phil** said:

#4

The lesson for Texas is *wake up!* It happened here in CA where we were a Republican state until the Kennedy/Bush Republican Party HQ'd in Texas took over the CA Republican State Committee, and the same crowd is now doing it in Texas.

Open borders, mass inflows of liberals from all direction and a GOP determined to reshape the party to accommodate the “new banana republic” future, you Texans are in for a long haul.

You arrogantly pissed on the rest us with your “Don’t mess with Texas” when we needed help and are about to learn what it feels like now that we can’t help you. You forgot the Alamo and will now have to relive it.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:24 am, **Hiraghm** said:

#5

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:10 am, CO2 Producer said:  
“What do you think was the main motivation for the Civil War?”

Answer #1: An attempt to restore the oligarchy that had been displaced with the formation of the Republic in 1930, was the motivation on the part of the fascists/monarchists. A desire to retain the republic on the part of the republicans.

Question #1: WHICH civil war?

Question #2: WHOSE motivation?

Answer #2: if referring to the American-Confederate War, the United States has never had a civil war until the 1960s, which continued until 2016, ending with the final defeat and suppression of the constitutional libertarian elements.

Answer #3: the motivation on the part of the United States in the American-Confederate War was to establish federal sovereignty and retain the revenue from the (soon to be captive) former southern States. Similar to Great Britain’s motivation in the American War of Independence.

The motivation on the part of the Confederacy in the American-Confederate was self-determination and preservation of their economy.

Think I’d get an A?

(For those who didn’t catch it, Answer #1 presumed they meant the Spanish Civil War).

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:27 am, **Hiraghm** said: #6

As Texas goes, so goes the nation. The fight against the federalization of academic standards is a national education Alamo.

You DO recall who won the Alamo?

You DO recall that the ultimate result was Texas becoming a captive State of the U.S.?

Not exactly sure you want to go with that analogy.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:43 am, **Marshall\_Will** said: #7

Pasadena Phil said,

to accommodate the "new banana republic" future

We need to pull the plug on this debacle by whatever means necessary. If that means ditching that 2nd income ( or you're among the 20 million that simply can't find meaningful/any employment ) STAY HOME w/ your children and let these schools rot on the vine.

Clearly they're not 'missing' anything.

There isn't going to be any "working with them" when pub. schools have gone this far round the bend. Trolls can feel free to chirp in about our 'paranoia' over the turning of pub. ed. into indoctrination centers any TIME now?

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 10:49 am, **Rogue Cheddar** said: #8

Challenging students to digest and dissect difficult poems and novels is becoming passe. Utilitarianism uber alles.

Dumb kid (future senator): U r a h8r!

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:09 am, **tre** said: #9

"When an opponent declares, "I will not come over to your side," I calmly say, "Your child belongs to us already... What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community."

- Adolph Hitler

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:18 am, **happyscrapper** said: #10

There is absolutely no question, we MUST get our children out of government indoctrination centers. That is all they are! Is this what we want for our kids??? Sadly, most folks can't afford private schools and most folks are not qualified to home school. What to do? I don't know. All I know is that government schools have crossed the line and MUST GO!! Perhaps we should all pull our kids out and have them go on strike.

Glenn Beck is talking about another paper gun issue right now. A fifth grader will need to change schools because she was screamed at by the teacher for having a paper gun. They threatened to have her arrested. The other kids harrassed her. She is having nighmares.

Glenn says we MUST get our kids out of those schools...NOW. Otherwise, the

next generation will be even more screwed up than this one is!

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:19 am, **happyscrapper** said: #11

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:09 am, tre said:  
"When an opponent declares, "I will not come over to your side," I calmly say, "Your child belongs to us already... What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community."  
- Adolph Hitler

This is just about the most chilling quote I have ever read.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:26 am, **AlohaGuy** said: #12

hoodwinked Republican governors

To be fair there are plenty of hoodwinked Republican members of Congress too.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:27 am, **AlohaGuy** said: #13

California, for example, is now citing Common Core as a rationale for abandoning algebra classes for 8th graders.

How much algebra do you need to go pick up your block of cheese?

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:28 am, **stillontheroad** said: #14

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:18 am, happyscrapper said:  
<http://movieclips.com/Qo3qw-1984-movie-two-minutes-hate/>

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:29 am, **AlohaGuy** said: #15

The fight against the federalization of academic standards is a national education Alamo.

That one didn't turn out well either.

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On March 1st, 2013 at 11:31 am, **AlohaGuy** said: #16

Houston... hotbed of right-wing, original intent, small government reactionaries. Just like Austin and San Antonio...

Even in Hawaii where nearly everyone is a Democrat, that San Antonio mayor would give people the creeps.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:37 am, **Marshall\_Will** said: #17

happyscrapper said,

and most folks are not qualified to home school.

Mmmm... the Professional Left has by default made 'qualified', a *relative* term. At this late stage, the school's *janitor* would be my preference over the hands of Prog-PEU acolytes for, "classroom instruction".

Hey, plenty of those guys are retired military on their 2nd career and have lots of really funny stories! Wind 'em they'll go all day.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:40 am, **happyscrapper** said: #18

In order to home school...don't you have to meet certain criteria? Think about all the morons out there. Maybe there would be enough people with brains and common sense to make a difference. But after seeing the bozo POTUS be re-elected, I don't know about that.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:44 am, **Marshall\_Will** said: #19

happyscrapper said:

In order to home school...don't you have to meet certain criteria?

Public schools just de-certified *themselves*. If kids stayed home all day and vegetated/played video games, at least they wouldn't be getting The Indoctrination.

2012 changed everything. What do we have to 'lose' now? Time for the gloves to come off.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:45 am, **AlohaGuy** said: #20

abandoning algebra classes for 8th graders.

Maxine Waters don't need no stinkin' algebra to know 170 million of the 150 million workforce will be out of work if the debt increases slightly slower than Obama planned.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:46 am, **happyscrapper** said: #21

EVERYONE...Be sure to tune in or DVR the Bible series on the History Channel each Sunday, culminating on Easter Sunday with the resurrection. This looks to be amazingly good!! And we want the ratings to go through the roof!!

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:57 am, **Rogue Cheddar** said: #22

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:27 am, AlohaGuy said:

California, for example, is now citing Common Core as a rationale for abandoning algebra classes for 8th graders.

How much algebra do you need to go pick up your block of cheese?

Sheet, I used that same argument when they tried to force the metric system on me. (he bragged, then proceeded to lick the Velveeta from his orange pudgy fingers.)

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:57 am, **babiesgrandma** said: #23

happyscrapper said:

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:09 am, tre said:



“When an opponent declares, “I will not come over to your side,” I calmly say, “Your child belongs to us already... What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community.”  
– Adolph Hitler

This is just about the most chilling quote I have ever read.

My thoughts exactly. I was scrolling down to enter my “chilling” take on this. You beat me to it, Happy, and I will stand beside you in our disgust of where our once-great nation is now headed. Drudge headlines says **Americans see biggest monthly income drop in 20 years.** Pretty soon, we all will be under their complete control; monetarily and physically (see oblamocare).

On March 1st, 2013 at 11:58 am, **zorro** said: **#24**  
Great article Michelle. I think you should go back to using that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow quote from Monte Cassino... **“The pen became a clarion”**. This series of articles is indeed a clarion call to action.

Let's take back our schools.

On March 1st, 2013 at 12:15 pm, **Pasadena Phil** said: **#25**

In states like Texas, which rejected Common Core, similar secretive alliances prevail.

CA kept rejecting gay marriage and other liberal agenda items too but it didn't matter. Same with CO. But when a corrupt one-party establishment rules, what citizens vote for doesn't matter. And the GOP half of the entrenched criminal class leadership is headquartered in Texas so what hope does Texas have? ZThe rest of us taken were down by that gang of crooks a long time ago and with Texas cheering them on with “Give CA back to Mexico!”

On March 1st, 2013 at 12:21 pm, **dan708** said: **#26**  
Well it's nice to know that the grass roots are getting their dander up, but we needed more of them on Election Day!

On March 1st, 2013 at 12:24 pm, **NotTheMama** said: **#27**  
Oh. Missed to first two parts – kids are out of school. The socialists/statists don't care about rules or laws. They will push their agenda no matter what.

So this was the reason behind the hijab wearing students. Don't recall this background data being part of that story.

Wow.

On March 1st, 2013 at 12:24 pm, **greenfairie** said: **#28**  
I say that wealthy conservatives need to stop wasting their money on dopey candidates and put the dough instead into opening private schools where kids can get a real education.

In the meantime, I think this makes it more imperative to 1) get rid of the federal Department of Education and 2) purge leftists from school boards. Even if you can homeschool, there will be many for which that won't be an option and those kids will end up dumb and dependent.

---

On March 1st, 2013 at 12:57 pm, **Marshall\_Will** said: #29

Pasadena Phil said,

CA kept rejecting gay marriage and other liberal agenda items too but it didn't matter. Same with CO.

Right, as MM says "We vote it down 39 times in-a-row but those votes don't count. Then conservative voters think they've finally driven a stake through it's heart and stay home (1) time; and it's 'Law!'" ( para )

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On March 1st, 2013 at 1:04 pm, **Pasadena Phil** said: #30

Anyone know what those GOP potted plants are doing to prevent **this**?

Once again, our IRAs and 401(k)s are being targeted for confiscation by the government to be managed by the Social Security Administration. We lose the tax deduction in exchange for a guaranteed a 3% annual return.

Once again, those of us who work, save and pay our bills on time and in full get robbed for the benefit of the parasites.

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