

Common Core



You cannot progress when you don't know where you are headed. Progress in terms of success means you have a defined goal. Proverbs 29:18 KJV says, "Where there is no vision the people perish." The Literal Translation says the people cast off restraint. Either interpretation renders having no revelation or vision, we can say standard, a bad thing.

The Ten Commandments were a guide. They spelled out what was good and what was bad. Those laws have been under attack since Moses carved them into stone. People have challenged their authority, questioned their validity and objected to the universal application in society.

Education has had its own rebellion. What educators agreed on centuries ago– the importance of moral character, the grasp of basic knowledge, unshakable truth– has been cast aside by succeeding generations of scholars.

Education also provided a standard. More or less. It at least has had some prevailing opinions. The problem is it has been defined vaguely in the last century. Each state, each district, determined for themselves their direction. Their prevailing model was child centered education. It failed.

A unified code of standards was considered the answer. A common curriculum needed to be implemented throughout America so we could finally take our stand with heads held high in the global arena of education. Or at least ahead of Macao.

Starting in 2009 the effort to create a common curriculum for America was begun. But what began as a quasi good idea became an exercise in political correctness and government meddling. Common Core is in use to some degree in 42 states. It is a rigorous program. Kindergarten is first grade. Children are expected to read when they finish kindergarten. First grade is now second/third. There is an emphasis on *skills*. Sound good?

The results of testing in recent years have been unimpressive. The focus has moved from standards to teachers and their ability to teach. Teachers are scrutinized by their students' performance on tests, tested themselves and in fear of being fired if they don't deliver.

But in 2017 a [report](#) from the Pew Research Center showed the US still ranking in the middle and in some instances performing worse than previous years.

We believe in vision. We believe in standards. Both create unity. But the stuff of vision and standard matters. After all, those at the Tower of Babel had a vision. Apparently they had skill. But the goal wasn't worthy, and so it failed.

If you would like to see the Common Core requirements for your state, visit the Common Core [website](http://corestandards.org) (corestandards.org).