



TEXAS EAGLE FORUM TORCH

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CSCOPE and Common Core Are “One In The Same”

By Merrylynn Gerstenschlager, TEF Vice-President, 2/12/14

After having fought education reform at the local, state, and national level for the past twenty years, one can imagine my elation when I recently watched Megyn Kelly on FOX Cable News talk about Common Core, the national education “standards,”

which encompass a comprehensive system that has parents and teachers, both conservative and liberal, in an uproar. Finally, someone has provided a national platform for voicing the concerns about the push for federal control of education standards for the states.

Opposition was demonstrated a few weeks ago at the 25th annual Education Policy Conference (EPC-25), hosted by the Constitutional Coalition in St. Louis, Missouri, where Texas Eagle Forum was among the 500 activists, elected officials, homeschoolers, parents, and teachers who gathered to equip ourselves for the national battle against Common Core.

Granted, in 2010, Governor Rick Perry did reject federal Race to the Top (RTT)

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CSCOPE and Common Core Are “One In The Same”

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stimulus funds that required states to adopt the Common Core Standards when he stated that “we would be foolish and irresponsible to place our children’s future in the hands of unelected bureaucrats and special interest groups thousands of miles away in Washington, virtually eliminating parents’ participation in their children’s education.”

Texas was one of only five states to reject the RTT funds that require the adoption of Common Core Standards. However, Texas is not free of the influence of the federal government because we have something called CSCOPE in many Texas public schools. While proponents will tell you that CSCOPE is “only a curriculum management system” developed by the Texas Education Service Centers, parents, teachers, and education researchers have proven that the digitized CSCOPE lessons are definitely a curriculum.

One year ago, science teacher-turned-activist Janice VanCleave summed it up well when she stated that “CSCOPE and Common Core are one in [sic] the same. Same micromanaging of teachers and dumbing down of students.

Common Core wrapped in a CSCOPE package has sidestepped Governor Perry’s mandate that Texas will not use the federal Common Core Standards.”

Note that President Barack Obama later opened up RTT grant money to individual school districts. Subsequently, several Texas charter schools applied for and were awarded RTT federal funds.

Among them was the Harmony Science Academy (also known as one of the taxpayer-funded Turkish charter schools) that won almost \$30 million in RTT funds. Harmony’s application for the grant states that they have “a robust assessment and reporting platform called the Harmony Performance Management Database (HPMD). This SQL-based school database features individual and aggregate student information on logistics, culture and discipline, and academics. Data is interoperable, enabling it to be exported for use in other commonly used student data tracking systems.”

The terminology regarding “data tracking systems” fits hand in glove with the presentation at EPC-25 by Beverly Eakman (www.beverlyeakman.com), as her topic was titled, “Following the Data Trail from Test to Total Control.” She pointed out that “tests” have been replaced with “assessments.” Whenever you hear the word “assessment” you should translate it mentally as “attitudinal screening.” We no longer “test” children for factual knowledge.

Beverly Eakman demonstrated how children are repeatedly “assessed” in order to determine how they are progressing in changing their attitudes, values, and beliefs to

the predetermined outcome of those who created the standards and the assessments. It is all done on computers and Eakman emphasized that “if you can’t see what is on your kid’s computer screen, then your oversight is gone.”

Linda Harvey, founder of Mission America (www.missionamerica.com), spoke about the proposed sexuality standards in Common Core. The framework has already been developed by the Future of Sex Education (FoSE). A copy of the standards can be downloaded at www.futureofsexed.org. Sexual corruption is already happening in our schools with the introduction of anti-bullying programs (loaded with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) agenda); obscene, anti-Christian leftist literature; social justice; and, in the higher grades, activist opportunities. Sexual subjects already fit into Common Core through the English Language Arts (ELA) standards via obscene novels; social justice in the social studies; and data collection by asking students their sexual orientation or gender identity. Sex ed is one thing, but literature is something we think would be okay.

Dr. Michael Coffman spoke about “Common Core’s Agenda 21 and Globalism vs. Private Property and Individual Liberty.” The new Science Standards also include the “science of meditation.” It includes a step-by-step lesson on an Eastern spiritual religious practice, all billed as “focusing awareness.” The weather and climate standards include lessons that are all based on “models.” While models are very useful, the lessons present that they prove global warming is factual. The environment is peppered throughout the Science Standards. They do not test knowledge of facts, but assess where the student is on their continuum.

The bottom line is that Common Core is a top-down push for a one-size-fits-all curriculum for all students.

As Bill Whittle (www.billwhittle.com) emphasized, the concept of the individual is obliterated in Common Core. It is the concept of the individual that has made America the greatest nation on earth. Our education system used to teach children how to think. Today, Common Core tells students what to think and then measures their progress through unending assessments to see how the child is conforming to be the ideal child of the state. The elitists believe they know what is best for our children and us.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Texas Eagle Forum will continue to keep you informed about Common Core and CSCOPE in future publications. MerryLynn is available to speak to groups on CSCOPE, Common Core, and Texas Missionary Turkish Charter Schools. Contact her at capitoldays140@hotmail.com. In the meantime, we are focusing on our efforts to elect true conservatives who support states’ rights, local control of education, and, among other things, parental rights. We hope you will participate in the political process to help keep America free.

Smart Meters: No State Or Federal Mandate

By Justin and Elizabeth Padgett,
Texans Against Smart Meters Leadership,
1/22/14

The 2005 and 2007 Energy Bills were written to promote the smart grid and smart grid technologies, but they did not include any federal mandate for a wireless smart meter adoption and did not include any requirement that smart meters, wireless or wired, should be forced on all consumers.

No one can be forced to comply with an unrevealed contract between private corporations to which you were never a party and had no knowledge about.

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 shifted tax liabilities from corporations who were already making record profits onto the public.

Under PURPA (Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act), utility companies which were qualified under federal standards were able to recover from ratepayers any capital, operating expenditures or other costs of the smart grid investment, including a reasonable rate-of-return. Utilities were also allowed to recover remaining book value of obsolete equipment such as analogue meters. **This bill is actually a huge tax bill forcing the public to pick up the costs of 100% of the smart meters and smart grid with a profit margin written into it.** This is being sold as carbon reduction, energy efficiency, and energy conservation, while all the time customers are being subjected to data mining, unwarranted surveillance, and health hazards. These taxes are applied to energy bills in different ways, but will never reduce consumption or make more energy sources efficient or secure. It has been stated by various experts that the smart grid is 100% vulnerable to hacking.

Presently there is a 4 billion dollar tax/bailout being proposed by the Public Utilities Commission of Texas for huge energy companies who have not recouped their guaranteed profits.

In 2005, the legislature passed HB 2129, encouraging the adoption of digital meter technology throughout Texas.



Two years later, HB 3693 was passed stating that net metering and advanced meter data networks be deployed as rapidly as possible to better manage energy use and control cost.

Nowhere in this bill are electric utilities required to *mandate* smart meters. In fact, Chairman Donna Nelson appeared before the Science, Space, and Technology Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives in September of 2011 and stated, "The state legislature encouraged deployment, but did not mandate it."

The Smart Grid is nothing more than a huge tax on the American public, charging consumers time of day prices in 15 minute increments. This grid cannot and does not bring more efficient use of energy, and it never was meant to. The intent of the grid is to move the energy market toward a capacity market which guarantees profits for years to come for the fat cats on Wall Street and their political cronies, and it is meant to gouge you, the American taxpayer.

This isn't about conservation of energy or any of the other environmental platitudes that are put out as propaganda to foist these deadly meters on an unsuspecting public. It is simply a ploy to unlawfully spy on private citizens while extorting the public for corporate profits and political hacks.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst invited concerned citizens and Public Utility Commission officials to meet and discuss a possible interim study on smart meters. We plan to keep you posted as progress is made.



100% Of Conservative 501(c)(4) Groups Audited By IRS

More new evidence that the Obama Regime has weaponized the IRS, tyrannically using it to silence and punish his political opponents, has been revealed by House Ways and Means Chairman Dave Camp. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Congressman Camp said: "We now know that the IRS targeted not only right-leaning applicants, but also right-leaning groups that were already operating as 501(c)(4)s. At Washington, DC's direction, dozens of groups operating as 501(c)(4)s were flagged for IRS surveillance, including monitoring of the groups' activities, websites and any other publicly available information. Of these groups, 83% were right-leaning. And of the groups the IRS selected for audit, 100% were right-leaning."

SOURCE: visiontoamerica.com, 2/13/14

United States Drops To 43rd In Press Freedom

Love them or not, a free press is the hallmark of a truly free nation. Which is why it's remarkable – and quite disturbing – that in only the last year, the Obama Administration's stifling of members of the press has led to a precipitous drop [down 13 points] in the U.S. ranking on press freedoms. Of 180 countries, the United States now ranks 43rd in terms of respecting a free press – that's behind such stalwarts of liberty as South Africa, Romania and Botswana – according to a new report by Reporters Without Borders. The primary reason for our drop? In one word? Obama. His – and the Executive Branch's reaction – to whistleblower Edward Snowden, combined with the Justice Department's secret seizure of Associated Press phone records has done serious damage to America's reputation as a robust defender of press freedoms.

SOURCE: downtrend.com, 2/12/14

PETA Wants To Erect Roadside Memorial For...Chickens!!

Last month, a tractor trailer carrying an indeterminate number of live chickens overturned on a highway outside Athens, GA. According to reports at the time, there were no injuries — meaning human injuries. All the chickens perished. To underscore that their deaths were not in vain, the watchdog group, PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), has asked the Georgia Department of Transportation to erect a 10-foot-high roadside memorial. PETA spokeswoman Sarah Segal, who wrote the petition, said, "They are living creatures, so they do feel pain, just like we do." But GDOT director of administration Meg Pirkle said no dice to the memorial, "Memorials on highways and interstates are strictly regulated and are restricted to people."

SOURCE: conservativebyte.com, 2/10/14

30-Mile Rule Stops An Abortion Practice In Houston

The "30-mile rule" promoted by Eagle Forum just shut down a Houston abortion practice. The 30-mile rule prohibits abortion unless the doctor performing the abortion has hospital admitting privileges within 30 miles, in order to take care of complications. This law reduces the ability of the abortion industry to shift its costs onto emergency rooms where the abortionist is not even available to handle his own complications. Planned Parenthood showed its true colors by suing to try to block this law, but it lost at the 5th Circuit and Supreme Court levels, leaving this good law in effect in Texas. In addition to initially causing the closure of about one-third of Texas's abortion clinics, because abortionists often lack nearby hospital admitting privileges, last week it shuttered the practice of Houston abortionist Dr. Theodore M. Herring Jr. His medical license was suspended upon discovery that he had performed abortions in violation of this good law.

SOURCE: Eagle Forum News & Notes, 2/21/14

Quote of the Month

"Obamacare empowers a few political elites, their operatives, and cronies to do whatever they want to the American people on the false promise of access to 'free', 'quality' 'medical care', AKA tyranny-through-medicine. They write and rewrite the deceitfully-passed law for political expediency, power, and money; patients are an afterthought, an annoying impediment to their ultimate goal—socialized medicine, the keystone in the arch of Socialism."

Dr. Kristin Held, "Texas Doctor Rebels vs Obamacare," lastresistance.com, 2/6/14

Great American Quotes

"A socialist is someone who has read Lenin and Marx. An anti-socialist is someone who understands Lenin and Marx."

Ronald Reagan

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