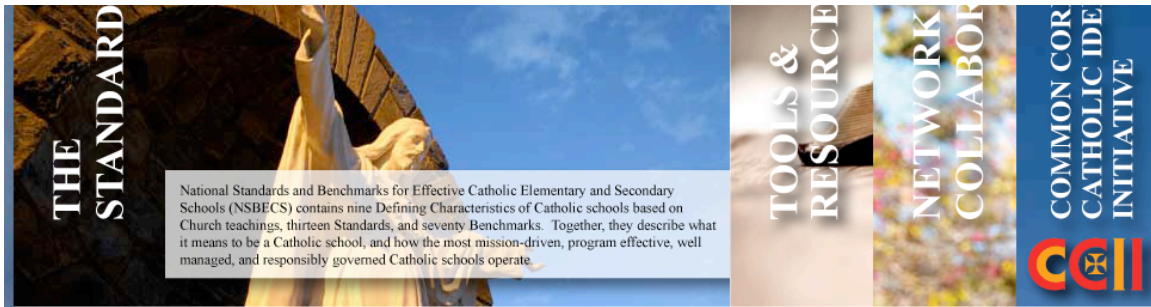


Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative website shut down after controversial materials exposed by parents

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September 27, 2013 - After months of marketing and promotion of Common Core and the Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative (CCCII), the NCEA, [Center for Catholic School Effectiveness](#) (CCSE), and some Superintendents of Catholic schools across the country have some explaining to do.

After concerned parents diligently researched the CCCII Exemplar Units and Guidelines and found controversial material that contradicts Catholic moral teachings, they spoke out. Friends of our group emailed several key players, developers, and supporters of the CCCII and as a result, the website has been shut down.



THE STANDARD

National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools (NSBECS) contains nine Defining Characteristics of Catholic schools based on Church teachings, thirteen Standards, and seventy Benchmarks. Together, they describe what it means to be a Catholic school, and how the most mission-driven, program effective, well managed, and responsibly governed Catholic schools operate.

TOOLS & RESOURCE

NETWORK COLLABOR

COMMON CORE CATHOLIC IDENTITY INITIATIVE

CCCII

New CCCII Website Coming Soon!

Thank you for visiting!

A new and improved CCCII website is currently under construction to provide even more resources for you.

If you would like to be informed of the new website launch, please share your name and email address in the fields below. We will send you a welcome message when we go live!

Full name:

Email Address:



All documents and resources that the NCEA and CCSE designed in partnership for principals and teachers to use in their Catholic schools for Common Core implementation *have been taken off the internet*. Why? Because what was in them is very damaging to their glowing story comprised of nothing but talking points. When a concerned mother identified these subversive materials in their Exemplars and Guidelines, she was told by the Professional Development Coordinator of the CCSE that the “review process failed and all of the titles were not properly vetted and reviewed”. The site was taken down at this same time other parents began emailing their concerns to several members of the design, launch and support teams of CCCII. We now believe they are hiding their true agenda and scrubbing their materials.

These damaging resources included books referencing same-sex marriage for first graders, social activism links for young children, protest songs, a book list from University of Wisconsin that includes activist books for children and a gay marriage equality book, a Unit centered on how to make *facebook* pages for social networking for 7th grade, and also the recommendation to use the Catholic Youth Bible (NRSV, 1993) which in 1994 the Holy See declared it was not to be used in Catholic Liturgy due to its inclusive language (so why use it when teaching our children?). Another disturbing part that parents found in the CCCII Guidelines for designing Units references the books [“Go Ask Alice”](#), [“I am the Cheese”](#) and [“Daddy was a Number Runner”](#). These books are about drug use, depression and psychological problems, and sexual abuse - not exactly exemplary of Catholic Identity.

How is this possible, that “Catholic” organizations such as the NCEA and a “Catholic” CCSE did not properly vet these materials that were being mass marketed to Superintendents, principals and Catholic educators all over the country? Now, many Diocesan Superintendents are expecting principals, teachers and parents to blindly trust, because they are relying on these resources that claim that Catholic Identity must be preserved and infused into the standards. The damage has been done, as parents have witnessed through these resources, along with Common Core resources, the distorted agenda that is being promoted; it does not represent anything close to what parents expect from Catholic schools and Catholic education in general.

The CCSE and NCEA are attempting to fundamentally change Catholic education in this country, and Common Core is but one tool that they can use to push it through. They are feeding their talking points to Superintendents, the ones our Bishops rely on to steer the direction of Catholic education.

We have seen several Superintendent letters attempting to assuage parents' fears – referencing CCCII as a tool to support Common Core in a Catholic worldview. They all claim that they support CCCII and that it will benefit their schools.

For example, in a [Statement by the Superintendents of Catholic Schools in California](#), the Superintendents state: “As professional educators who are committed and dedicated to Catholic schools, we have spent years researching, studying and analyzing which resources and materials are most effective in engaging students in the learning process, both from an academic perspective and a faith perspective. The CCSS infused with the CCCII will provide our teachers and schools greater opportunities to provide rigorous academic instruction in the nurturing environment of our Catholic faith. Most importantly, they will better prepare students to achieve their individual, God-given potential and become leaders in both our Church and society.”

A [Statement by the PA Catholic Conference](#) on behalf of all Superintendents in the state says the following: “The Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative (CCCII) has been established through the Department of Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE).... Please be assured that our Catholic Identity and our mission will never be compromised. “ An excellent Catholic School has a clearly articulated, rigorous curriculum aligned with relevant standards, 21st century skills, and Gospel value implemented through effective instruction” (CCCII). Our schools exist to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. As Diocesan Offices of Education, we envision education as a lifelong process that can actualize the full human and spiritual potential of all people, calling them to discover, internalize, proclaim, and live the Gospel message and to grow in faith.”

A [Statement by the Superintendents of the Catholic Dioceses in Illinois](#) says the following: “We support the Common Core Catholic Identity Initiative and would encourage our constituents to trust that we will remain true to the mission of Catholic education and to the formation of the children that God has entrusted to our care. Giving young people the tools of college and career readiness has long been a Catholic school tradition and commitment. We will continue to be centers of learning and communities of love.”

Trust? Good News of Jesus Christ? College and Career Readiness? First, after revealing these materials, it will be difficult for parents to regain any trust unless our Church leaders denounce this agenda. Sadly, there is damage done here, and it should not be allowed to fester in the Church. Catholic Schools do not exist to train a child for college and career readiness. The NCEA, CCSE and the Superintendents are lowering the bar below what is morally acceptable and changing course. Every parent must alert their (Arch)Bishop immediately of the dangers of this fast moving train.