

Twin Peaks Charter Academy Positional Statement on Common Core



Twin Peaks Charter Academy provides students with the foundations of virtue and character, building cultural literacy through a rigorous, content-rich curriculum in an encouraging environment.

Summary Points

- **The Common Core State Standards are benchmarks** that theoretically delineate what students should be able to do in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- **Common Core is an effort to reshape on a national scale not only *what* children are learning but *who* is determining what children are learning.**
- **Common Core was developed by non-profit groups and committees of experts, not accountable to a Colorado constituency.** Education is traditionally an issue of local control.
- **The state of Colorado adopted the standards**, and in conjunction with this action, also **agreed to begin using federal Common Core-aligned assessments** (to replace tests like TCAP).
- An analysis of national test scores provides **scant evidence that standards raise student achievement.**
- The state's adoption of Common Core **legally compromises the Colorado Charter Schools Act of 1994.**
- **Nationalized standards and federal assessments encumber a charter school which by nature is to be free of many regulations** so that its innovative programming may succeed.
- **An increased schedule of mandated assessments infringes on the instructional time** necessary to implement a charter's chosen program.
- **Common Core is *not* Core Knowledge.** The use of the word "Core" in each of these educationally-related terms is unfortunate. The Core Knowledge® Sequence delineates subject area *content* (e.g. Civil War, anatomy, *The Odyssey*, algebra, etc.) to be taught in each grade. Use of this program is voluntary.
- **The school affirms its right to design and implement its educational program.** At the K-8 level, this is the Core Knowledge® Sequence; at the High School, this is a classically-focused college preparatory high school
- Should it be determined that the Common Core-associated mandates decrease the effectiveness of the school's lawful educational program, **Twin Peaks Charter Academy will take whatever action it deems necessary to protect its legal rights**
- **Throughout time, the keys to producing educated citizens have not been standards and assessments, but rather engaged parents, willing students, outstanding teachers, and last but not least, solid content-rich curriculums.**