

NCLB Revision Potentially Prompts Common Core Repeal

ANGELA YANG
Editor in Chief

Following the November 2014 elections, the United States Congress became a Republican majority, the largest since 1929. A large factor behind this was the Republican party's support of repealing the Common Core State Standards Initiative, first implemented in 2010, as many states that had adopted it are now pushing for its removal, according to Reason magazine. It was also reported that common criticisms of Common Core were its rigorous testing and linking of teacher evaluations to student performances. Furthermore, the majority of testing was hosted on computers, which many teachers disliked as younger students could not comprehend it and some schools did not necessarily have the money for such resources.

"I think it [would] be a good thing to standardize the national expectations for how a student should be doing, but because it is not always possible for states to be on equal footing in terms of resources, it might not be the best thing to adopt," junior Vector Le said.

According to PBS, Congress now intends to revise the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), first introduced in 2001. There are three intended goals: improving teacher quality, assessing students

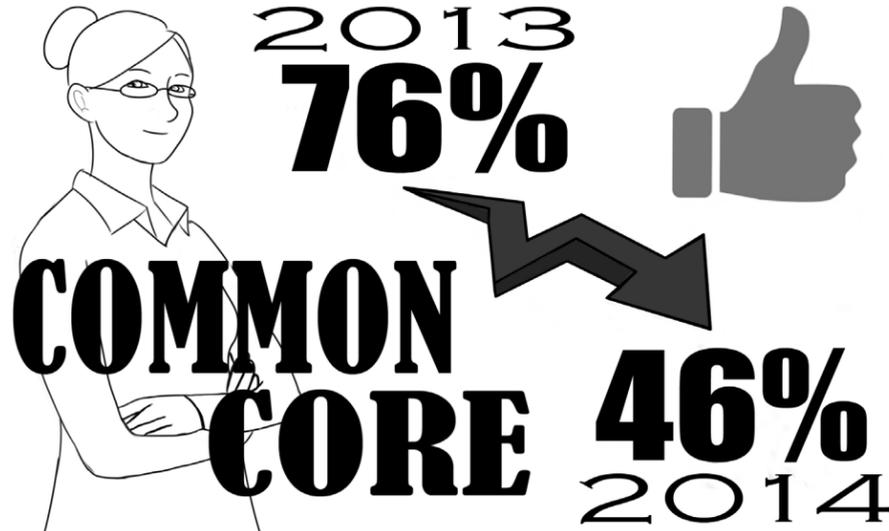
NCLB spent seven years in action, was overturned and then spent another seven years being reworked by the U.S. government. The government then implemented Common Core through NCLB

"[Common Core] is what we're directed to do, and when you're directed to do something, you do it. I am for whatever is best for our students," principal Duane Russell said.

Common Core was put together by three main committees: two work groups, two feedback groups and a validation committee. According to Heartland News, one in 60 committee members was a classroom teacher, meaning less than .017 percent of those working on the Common Core initiative had actually experienced teaching in a classroom and would be affected by its implementation. The committee was mainly composed of individuals who were involved in education, but not necessarily teachers.

According to U.S. News, teacher support of Common Core dropped from 76 percent in 2013 to 46 percent in 2014. The growing dissatisfaction with Common Core has been met with organized opposition, composed of groups ranging from teachers' unions and parents to those of different political affiliations.

MOOR graphic by SAMMIE CHEN



and introducing a penalty for poorly-performing schools, all of which will lead to reforms in curriculum. This then raises the question: should an NCLB revision pass, will Common Core stick?

and incentivized states to participate through the use of NCLB waivers; these waivers would grant money to the state should the students meet the requirement.

Moor Friends Gather for More Friends

DENISE TIEU
News Editor

On Dec. 17, Moor Friends and Speech and Debate members helped decorate the cafeteria in a Candyland theme for a Winter Formal held exclusively for Moor Friends and AHS administrators.

"Some of the students in Moor Friends are unable to attend our school dances throughout the year. We thought it would be a great idea to have our own small dance where everyone in the club could attend," club advisor Melissa Martinez said.

Moor Friends, a relatively new club to AHS, promotes an environment in which all students can feel included on campus.

"Moor Friends' purpose is to provide a positive environment and for members to become inspirational leaders, make one-to-one friendships, work on team building and help bring awareness and understanding [to] differences on our campus," President Danielle Medina

said.

In order for members to attend the dance with no cost and to pay for food, drinks, a candy bar, a DJ and a photo-booth, Moor Friends held multiple fundraisers that included bake sales and selling food at the Food Fair. Decorations for the dance were made during Moor Friends' weekly meeting. The dance was promoted during meetings and on the club's private Instagram page.

"[The members'] dedication and hard work has created an environment that is conducive for learning and is filled with positive social interactions that benefit all students," Martinez said.

According to Moor Friends members, the dance's turnout was quite successful.

"I thought the event turned out [amazingly]. Everyone seemed to have an amazing time and being able to experience [it] and say that I was a part of it lets me know that I've done something with my senior year that I will never forget," Vice President Melody Hwang said.

AHS Red Cross Holds Life-Saving Donations to Keep Cup for Life

SARA HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Winter is here and it is time for the second Red Cross blood drive of the school year held on Jan. 29. Within the last few years, the Alhambra Unified School District's high schools have donated more in blood drives, making it possible for Red Cross to host three blood drives throughout the school year. Throughout these three drives, the high schools will be competing against each other in the Cup for Life Challenge to see which school gathers the most number of donations. After every drive, the school who has the most donations will receive the cup and hold it until they are dethroned. After the first blood drive in October, AHS Red Cross received the Cup for Life.

"Our goal is for the cup to stay here. We are aiming towards the junior class to step up and save a life," Red Cross advisor Debora Blais said. "Hopefully all the football players can [donate] this time."

Students had three ways to sign up to donate. All Red Cross members had signup sheets with them and during lunch, Red Cross members were at the Quad and Third Street to help with sign ups. For this upcoming blood drive, Red Cross also implemented an online signup on Google Forms.

"Because Alhambra has been traditionally more active in collecting donors, we plan to continue and in the process, promote healthy competition," Red Cross Blood Chair Kevin Kong said. "During the winter, the American Red Cross faces a shortage of donors due to severe weather patterns and this affects countless lives. We are trying to make a strong push to help alleviate this problem and prepare for arguably our biggest drive later this year in April."



MOOR SPIRIT From Pajama Day to Blue and Gold Friday, AHS held its Winter Spirit Week during the week of Jan. 12-16.

MOOR photos by SARA HERNANDEZ

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DAD GETS NO-SHOW BILL AFTER SON
MISSES FRIEND'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

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BY PUTTING IT UP HER SKIRT

BOBCAT SURVIVES CAR CRASH AFTER
GETTING STUCK IN GRILLE