

Academic Standards Alert!!

From EdAction

Formerly Maple River Education Coalition PAC

What role does the Center for Civics Education (CCE) have in developing Social Studies Standards?

The Center for Civic Education (CCE) is a federally funded organization that wrote the national civics standards (the Federal Curriculum). The Profile of Learning standards were based on the CCE standards. These standards undermine America's founding principles of freedom.

The CCE has a state-by-state national network called, "We the People" (WTP), which exists to put the Federal Curriculum into each state's academic standards.

WTP's paid Minnesota staffer has been sitting next to Ed-Watch at the standards committee meetings, monitoring the new standards development. The CCE, unlike Ed-Watch, is funded by your taxpayer dollars! Federal education funding directs the CCE to write, publish and promote the Federal Curriculum.

EdWatch doesn't have millions of taxpayer dollars to match the CCE network. Ed-Watch does, however, publish the truth. When the truth is available to the public, it can be more powerful than all the CCE's power and money. Please help us with your financial support.

The Battle for Education Freedom

The battle at the legislature in 2004 over the new social studies and science standards will be the most important and hard-fought Minnesotans have yet faced.

When the *Profile of Learning* was repealed last May, Senator Steve Kelley removed language from the law that would have required that the standards "promote and preserve" the founding principles of our country, as stated in the Declaration of Independence. These founding principles are national sovereignty, unalienable rights, self-evident truth, life, liberty, and property, among others. Not surprisingly, **that's exactly where the battle is being fought in the new standards today.**

A group of Minnesota history professors and editorials around the state are attempting to force a radical, politi-

cized view of America into the new standards by attacking the new proposed standards as "out of the mainstream." (See "U of M History Professors" on page 2.)

These critics seem to have forgotten that the *Profile of Learning* was totally repealed last May after six long, hard years of persistent and intense opposition from thousands of citizens around the state.

The *Profile* repeal gave Minnesota a remarkable opportunity to reinstate knowledge-based learning in our state. The purpose of the *Profile* standards was to "transform" students through the politicized worldview of radical environmentalism, the division of America into warring cultures, and

through undermining our founding principles. **Last May, Minnesotans were promised something better.**

However, **the new standards** that will pass during next February's legislative session **could end up being no better than the Profile**, if the Minnesota history professors have their way in the Senate. In fact, **it is entirely possible that the new Minnesota academic standards could actually be worse than the old Profile of Learning!**

Public hearings will begin on the new standards in the Senate in January. **What can you do?** Please see page 2 for details.

Fact or Fiction?

This quote from a Mpls teacher, made at the Apple Valley standards hearing, describes the Social Studies debate well.

"The History standards are not only rife with factual errors and egregious, racist deletions but there is an obvious social and political agenda of accentuating states rights over civil rights and the individual over the common good..."

Some U of M History Professors Oppose Academic Standards

They ask the Commissioner to replace the “new” standards with ones that look a lot like the “old” Profile of Learning

They complain that ...

- Europeans [who] moved into the Americas are referred to in misleadingly neutral terms...[such] as “cooperation, compromise, and conflict.”
- [These terms should be] balanced by terms such as “conquest, subjugation, exploitation, or enslavement.”

They object that...

- 7th graders would learn that God is referenced four times in the Declaration of Independence
- Entrepreneurship is referenced three times
- The Declaration of Independence is called a “founding document that sets forth the principles of our nation.”

These U of M professors are attempting to force their radical, politicized view of America into the new standards. Like-minded editorials have popped up all over the state in orchestrated fashion, attacking the first draft of the social studies standards as supposedly being “out of the mainstream.”

What Is At Stake?

Anything is possible in 2004.

- Will the new standards reflect those values that make America free?
- Will they teach about our heroes of the past?
- Will they be a political platform to undermine our liberty?

One **national reviewer John Fonte**, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC, pointed out the seriousness of the issues facing us. He told the Commissioner and Committee members:

“Some critics of the Minnesota [social studies] standards have complained that the standards' developers have not built upon the framework of the national history standards.”

“These critics need to be reminded that the national history standards that were published in the 1990s, unfortunately turned out to be a biased and flawed set of standards. They not only created a great uproar across the nation, but were actually condemned by the US Senate in an overwhelmingly bi-partisan 99-1 vote... both of Minnesota's Senators at the time (1995), Democrat Paul Wellstone and Republican Rod Grams, voted to condemn the national history standards.”

“To ignore patriotic American values, as suggested by some of the public commentators on this draft, would be anti-democratic. It would be “public” education that ignores the “public.” Thus, it would be in opposition to a core democratic principle, “government by consent of the governed.” Moreover it would constitute a taxpayer-funded public education system that would be explicitly against the consent of the overwhelming majority of the American people...”

A student recently told us that her teacher spent weeks attacking America’s founding fathers, our present leaders, Christianity, and our foreign policy. One day, a student raised her hand to announce, “I hate us.” - her American culture.

What You Can Do?

The legislature convenes in early February, but public hearings will begin in January. We fear that people who worked for six years to repeal the Profile will consider their job over, while it has just begun. **We need your support more than ever before!**

Write a letter to the editor:

Remind readers that learning “how to think” is meaningless without a basis of knowledge. Learning about our country’s mistakes is important, but it is most important to give students an understanding of what is right with America and why America provides a beacon of liberty to the world.

Contact legislators:

Write them, call them, visit them! Both DFL or Republican. Let legislators know that education standards should be about teaching knowledge and skills, not about anti-American politics. Let them know how important it is that the standards reflect America’s principles of freedom.

Contact the Governor and

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