



## Evidence that the Florida Standards = Common Core

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We will show by numbers, as well as quotes from official and the media that the Florida Standards are not significantly different from the [academically inferior](#), [developmentally inappropriate](#) and [psychologically manipulative](#) Common Core standards

### Percentage Change

Florida made 98 changes, mostly additions, to the Common Core Standards. This is documented in numerous places. Here is one example: [http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2014-01-13/features/os-common-core-changes-20140113\\_1\\_common-core-education-commissioner-pam-stewart-standards](http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2014-01-13/features/os-common-core-changes-20140113_1_common-core-education-commissioner-pam-stewart-standards) Many of those changes like cursive writing and calculus, while welcome, are not on the assessments, and what is tested is what is taught.

There is question about the denominator to use in calculating the percentage of change of those 98 changes. The Orlando paper said that there are 11,000 math and English standards and that is the number we used to make our calculations in 2013. If that is correct, then  $98/11,098 = 0.9\%$  of the standards are different. That leaves about 99% of the Florida Standards still as Common Core.

If however, that 11,000 number was a typo, as I was told by national math expert Ze'ev Wurman in late 2014 and the actual number of standards is 1100, then the calculation would be  $98/1198 = 9\%$ , leaving 91% of the Florida Standards as Common Core.

Either way, the vast majority of Florida Standards is Common Core and according to the Race to the Top contract that Florida signed with the US Department of Education, allowed for states to add up to 15% of their own content and still keep the grant, which in Florida's case was \$700 million. You may see that provision here on page 123 of the document at this link <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7605/urlt/0073312-topappendix.pdf>

*"This effort is voluntary for states, and it is fully intended that states adopting the common core standards may choose to include additional state standards beyond the common core standards. **States that choose to align their standards to the common core standards agree to ensure that the common core represents at least 85 percent of the state's standards in English language arts and mathematics.**" (Emphasis added)*

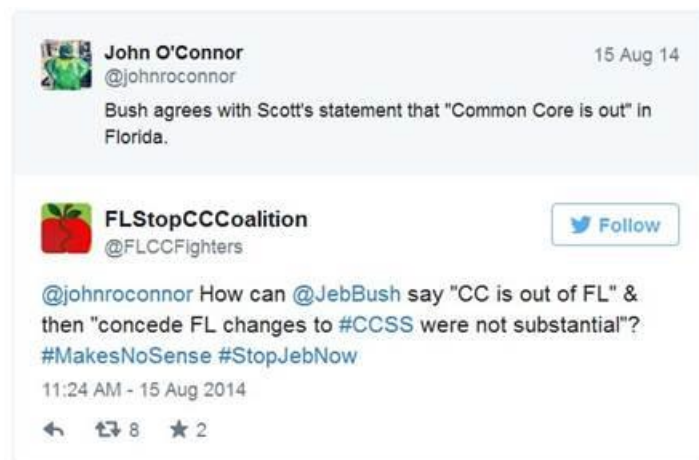
Here is additional information showing that the changes could not have been substantial due to copyright constraints: <http://www.flstopccoalition.org/files/DA8788CA-C95C-446F-9B84-DE4997B16485--34386791-D99E-4A98-80A6-922F0C0030B6/common-core-copyright-issues-for-florida.pdf?lc=11082013013213>

**Public Officials** - Here is a list of quotes from various Florida officials admitting that substantial changes to Common Core were NEVER part of the plan:

**Speaker Weatherford**, kowtowing to the corporate overlords in the Council of 100 in November of 2013 before what were accurately described as "tweaks" and "[copy edits](#)" in the "Florida standards" were released, said:

*"I just want you to know, the state of Florida is going to have a higher standard, **they are going to be Common Core standards**, they are going to be applicable to the rest of the country, **they may be called something else**, I don't know, but at the end of the day the actual standards will be there, and the state of Florida will support them . . . (Emphasis added)."*

## Former Governor Jeb Bush



[Commissioner Stewart](#) admitting to the Ocala Star Banner on 9/30/13 that the standards changes would not be significant even before the hearing process started:

"While the Department of Education plans to hold community town hall meetings to hear from the public about the pros and cons of the new Common Core State Standards, **she expects little changes in the curriculum as a result.**" (Emphasis added).

Race to the Top coordinator [Holly Edenfield](#) also stated in a letter dated the day after the governor's executive order and well before the dates of the hearings were even announced:

"Florida is not delaying implementation of the Common Core," Holly Edenfield, the state's Race to the Top coordinator, wrote to school district officials the next day. "We are opening up the standards for public review which might result in some changes to them, but **significant changes are not expected.**" (Emphasis added)

K-12 Deputy Chancellor [Mary Jane Tappen](#) in a webinar the day before the comment period closed:

**"We are moving forward with the new more rigorous standards.** So, if anyone is hesitating or worried about next year, the timeline has not changed. We are moving forward and we will have new course descriptions for next year and ... new assessments." (Emphasis added).

**Media Quotes** - The media showed complete understanding that Florida still operates under Common Core

[Jeff Solochek](#) of the Tampa Bay Times and Politifact, who can in no way be described as a friend of the anti-Common Core movement, wrote in direct response to the first Korach article:

***While Scott has said that Florida's standards are its own, Common Core foes often have called him out on this one. They have accurately noted that the Florida Standards are actually the [Common Core with the addition of 98 items](#), mostly related to cursive handwriting and calculus instruction. Supporters of the Common Core did not protest the revisions, saying they were minor and noting the State Board of Education removed nothing.***

Governor Scott offered a different version of events to Report Card. He said, "The Florida Standard is derived from the Next Generation Sunshine State Standard, which was derived from earlier versions of the Sunshine State Standards. These standards pre-dated Common Core and a truly Florida's own standards."

Except for this: The Florida Board of Education [adopted the Common Core in 2010](#), replacing the Next Generation standards in English/language arts and math. ***When it rebranded everything as Florida Standards, it included the [revised Common Core](#) and the state standards in other subject areas.*** (Emphasis added).

[Irene Flores](#) of New America Media quoted several Florida sources including Dr. Karen Effrem about the name change in a May 27th piece titled, In Florida Schools, Its Common Core by Another Name:

"We tinkered with the Florida standards but it's really Common Core--it's now the policy of the state," said David Lawrence Jr. with [The Children's Movement of Florida](#) and Education and Community Leadership Scholar at the University of Miami's School of Education and Human Development...

...According to Dr. Karen Effrem, executive director of the Florida Stop Common Core Coalition, ***"Florida standards are 99.1 percent Common Core. It was completely a name change, or as we have dubbed it, 'lipstick on a pig.'"*** (Emphasis added.)

She says it makes no difference what you call it as many of the tweaks are not actually going to show up on the tests and that furthermore they don't change the substantive problems with the standards, those that she and others fought from the start.

Florida AP reporter [Gary Fineout](#) said, "But shhh - don't tell anyone this - ***Common Core isn't really going away in Florida, just the name.***" (Emphasis added.)

Valerie Strauss of the Washington Post's Answer Sheet blog did say:

It [AIR] did recently win a new six-year \$220 million contract from the Florida Education Department to develop new state standardized tests that will be aligned to the new ***Florida Standards, which started out as the Common Core but got a name change amid growing opposition to the Core initiative. The Florida Standards themselves remain remarkably similar to the Common Core.*** (Emphasis added).