

# 10+ Questions for Diane Douglas

*Regarding her leadership in renewing the Common Core Standards in Arizona for another 7 years*

Question	Background
1. How did you “Stop Common Core” when only 4% of the Common Core Standards actually changed?	For K-3 Standards – 65% No changes, 31% Minor changes; 4% Significant changes
2. Why did your department (Arizona Department of Education-ADE) refuse to allow parents to be included in the development or review of the standards?	Parents asked multiple times to have a seat at the table, but were refused by Diane Douglas’ staff who presided over the rebrand of Common Core. ADE limited parent input to submitting comments online and 3 minutes in public comments.
3. Why did you use the Common Core State Standards as the starting point for the latest draft?	Diane Douglas had many higher standards offered to use, but she used the CCSS standards as the template.
4. If these standards actually prepared our students for college and university studies, why don’t our universities recognize it in lieu of the ACT/SAT?	Passing the AZMerit is not recognized by any college or university as adequate proof of being college ready. Students still must take ACT/SAT tests to show they are ready for college level work.
5. Do you agree with Stanford Professor Dr. James Milgram that our standards are the “same junk standards” as before?	Dr. Milgram (Math Professor Emeritus) reviewed the new AZ Standards and was disappointed that they had very little substantive changes.
6. Why did you give so many lobbyists and special interest groups a working seat at the table but limit parental input? Don’t parents matter more than lobbyists?	Lobbyists and special interests held many of the working group seats and parents were refused to even be in the room to observe the discussion.
7. How was this process transparent and open when the working group meeting participants were forced to sign non-disclosure agreements?	Governor Ducey asked that the process be transparent, but Diane Douglas and the ADE/SBE bureaucracy required it to be closed.
8. Will you support a menu of standards approach in Arizona so people who want truly higher standards may have a real choice?	The SBE has all the legislative authority to adopt truly higher standards.
9. CCSS are a set of workforce development standards. Do you believe this goal is the highest purpose of public education?	Standards set the table for curriculum and testing. They may have different focus like character education through the liberal arts or workforce development.
10. Can you name 1-2 standards that were changed solely by parental input?	There is no evidence that one standards was substantively changed by parental input and yet ADE and SBE claim these standards were developed with parents.

11. Why were so many parent's comments lost in the process guided by your department?	Thousands of comments were submitted, but...
12. Why are the principles of Common Core Math the same as before?	Common Core Math is a national punch line because of the inefficient and confusing way it drives teachers to teach mathematics. These confusing methodologies still exist in our standards documents as "principles" even though it's not supposed to drive curricular decisions.
13. Why does the math standards say that it doesn't promote instructional practices yet it pushes modeling?	Modeling is a contemporary instructional practice used in math and science to apply concepts to real world applications.
14. Why did you waste parents' time on the Standards Development Committee when you had no intention to listen to their input?	Parents worked on this committee for 18 months only to be completely ignored and not able to do the job they were asked.
15. Why did your department publish the names and phone numbers online of private citizens who gave input on the standards?	Only after parents expressed concerns for their personal information being posted online, was it removed. ADE had no clue this data was published.