

Free Informational Forum on Common Core

Tuesday, February 18th, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Northborough Free Library



Common Core ... What is it? Why Should Parents Be Concerned?

The Northborough/Southborough Schools are implementing Common Core in our schools; and, will be piloting the PARCC tests this spring.

The Common Core initiative, if fully implemented, will Federalize our public education system. Although Massachusetts is a leader in standardized student test results, Common Core will...

- ❖ **Eliminate local school control; replace it with Federal control**
- ❖ **Massachusetts will spend millions to lower its standards**
- ❖ **Data gathering and the tracking of all students**

Guest Speakers: Jamie Gass, Director, Center for School Reform, Pioneer Institute

**Sandra Stotsky, Professor Emerita,
University of Arkansas**

For more information: dcolorio2014@gmail.com

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Open Public Forum on Common Core

Speaker Biographies

Jamie Gass is Pioneer Institute's Director of the Center for School Reform. At Pioneer, he has framed, commissioned, and managed over 60 research papers and numerous policy events on K-12 education reform topics. Jamie has more than two decades of experience in public administration and education reform at the state, municipal, and school district levels. Previously, he worked at the Massachusetts Office of Educational Quality and Accountability as Senior Policy Analyst-Technical Writer and in the state budget office under two Massachusetts governors. In the 1990s, Jamie worked for the Dean of the Boston University School of Education/Boston University Management Team in its historic partnership with the Chelsea Public Schools. He has appeared on various Boston media outlets: WBZ's *Nightside with Dan Rea*, WRKO's *Tom & Todd Show*, WBZ's *Keller at Large*, WGBH's *Callie Crossley Show*, WBUR, as well as talk radio across the country. He has been quoted in *The Economist*, *Education Week*, and *The Boston Globe*, and his op-eds are regularly published in *The Boston Herald*, *The Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, *The Lowell Sun*, *The Providence Journal*, other regional newspapers, as well as national op-eds and magazine articles in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Education Next*, and *City Journal*. Jamie speaks on academic standards, school choice options, and school accountability at events throughout the country. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Boston University.

Sandra Stotsky is professor of education *emerita* at the University of Arkansas, where she held the 21st Century Chair in Teacher Quality. She served as Senior Associate Commissioner (a professional position) at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from 1999-2003, where she was in charge of developing or revising the state's K-12 standards, teacher licensure tests, and teacher and administrator licensure regulations. She served on the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education from 2006-2010 (a citizen position), on the National Mathematics Advisory Panel, from 2006-2008, and on the Common Core Validation Committee, from 2009-2010. She was one of the five members of the Validation Committee who would not sign off on the standards as being validated. She was also editor of NCTE's premier research journal, *Research in the Teaching of English*, from 1991 to 1997. She has published extensively in professional journals and written several books. She did undergraduate work at the University of Michigan and completed a doctorate in reading research at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She was an active citizen in Brookline for many years, serving as a board member and then president of its League of Women Voters several decades ago. She was an elected Town Meeting Member for 10 years and an elected library trustee for 14 years. She also served on many school-search and selectmen-appointed committees.