Alleged 'support' for Common Core on shaky ground

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An education analyst sees clear bias behind a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll showing that 59 percent of Americans "strongly" or "somewhat support" the Common Core standards.

Question 27 of the subject poll offers the following:

"Just to make sure that everyone has the same information let me describe the Common Core standards in a bit more detail. The Common Core standards are a new set of education standards for English and math that have been set to internationally competitive levels and would be used in every state for students in grades K through 12.

"Based on this information, do you support or oppose the adoption and implementation of the Common Core standards in your state?"

The survey response to the question: strongly support (27%), somewhat support (32%), somewhat oppose (11%), strongly oppose (20%), and not sure (10%).

Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute says because most people don't know much about the Core, pollsters provided a description clearly biased in favor of the standards.

"It gives a positive spin on the Common Core – and it does *nothing* to identify reasons that people *dislike* the Core," he observes. "And that's likely why you get these seemingly very high levels of support."

The associate director of Cato's Center for Educational Freedom says it's also important to note such polls make no mention of the massive federal role pushing states to adopt these controversial standards.

While acknowledging he doesn't know for certain, McCluskey predicts there will be more of these polls concerning the Common Core forthcoming. "What I think you are perhaps going to see is more of these pro-Common Core groups commissioning surveys like this – unless the response isn't what they want," he adds.

In recent interview with Brietbart.com about the poll, McCluskey said the wording of the question "is like failing to tell people pufferfish are poisonous, saying 'pufferfish are delicious and nutritious,' then asking 'would you like to eat some pufferfish?'"