



## ***USA Today: Common Core Standards Drive Wedge In Education Circles***

Posted on May 1, 2012 by Shane Vander Hart

[A balanced article](#) by Greg Toppo of USA Today. Here's a not so balanced excerpt as I wanted to point out the CCSS critics:

Also in February, Brookings Institution scholar Tom Loveless issued research calling into question whether the Common Core would have much of an effect. He noted that state standards have done little to equalize academic achievement within states. The reaction, he says, was “like putting my hand in a hornet’s nest — people do have a strong reaction to the Common Core.”

Last month, New York University education historian Diane Ravitch, a vocal Duncan critic, blasted the standards, writing in *The New York Review of Books* that they’ve never been field-tested. “No one knows whether these standards are good or bad, whether they will improve academic achievement or widen the achievement gap,” she said.

Neal McCluskey of the libertarian Cato Institute, said concerns of lawmakers like Haley may have seemed far-fetched a few years ago — states voluntarily signed on to the standards, after all — but Obama’s insistence on tying the Common Core to No Child waivers and billions in federal grants shows that “it is not the least bit paranoid” to say the federal government wants a national curriculum.

Be sure to [read the whole thing](#).

HT: Betty Peters