

The Washington Post

The coercion to adopt Common Core

By Neal McClusky – June 14th, 2013

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell's defense of the Common Core national curriculum standards ["A Core correction," op-ed, June 10] reflected the worst of the Common Core debate. Citing a Post article, Mr. Markell wrote that tea party critics wrongly assert that the federal government "developed" Common Core. But the article contained no such allegation. Meanwhile, Mr. Markell ignored what many inside and outside of the tea party find most concerning about Common Core implementation: Through the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top contest, the Obama administration coerced states into adopting Common Core and funded two groups to write national tests. The administration cemented that by making Common Core adoption one of only two ways states could qualify for No Child Left Behind Act waivers. Finally, Mr. Markell smeared as "fringe" those who oppose Common Core. It was just the sort of argument that is, rightly, fueling Common Core opposition.