

New York Common Core Implementation Costs

By Henry W. Burke

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It will cost New York \$243 million (net amount) to implement the Common Core Standards (CCS). Where will New York find \$243 million to implement the mediocre Common Core Standards?

I will call your attention to an excellent Pioneer Institute report, "National Cost of Aligning States and Localities to the Common Core Standards," dated February 2012 (PI report) and my report, "States' Taxpayers Cannot Afford Common Core Standards," by Henry W. Burke, dated 10.15.12 (Burke report). These are the links to the two reports:

<http://pioneerinstitute.org/download/national-cost-of-aligning-states-and-localities-to-the-common-core-standards/>

<http://educationviews.org/states-taxpayers-cannot-afford-common-core-standards-2/>

I also wrote a companion report applicable to the states that did not adopt the Common Core Standards, "Non-Common Core States Will Save Millions of Dollars," by Henry W. Burke, 10.18.12:

<http://educationviews.org/non-common-core-states-will-save-millions-of-dollars-2/>

I encourage you to realistically evaluate the costs versus the benefits for the State of New York. I will focus only on the cost of implementing the Common Core Standards (CCS) versus the dollar awards received from the federal government.

I thought I would offer a little insight into the CCS implementation costs. This explanation includes the Pioneer report figures and my assumptions. Obviously, I cannot speak for the Pioneer Institute nor its partners in the white paper, Accountability Works and Pacific Research Institute. These are strictly my thoughts, assumptions and calculations.

The Pioneer Institute report identified four cost categories for CCS implementation. The categories are: Testing, Professional Development, Textbooks, and Technology. Pioneer calculated the total CCS implementation cost over a 7-year time period.

The PI report included bar graphs (without dollar figures) for each state in Professional Development, Textbooks, and Technology. The Appendices to the PI report showed exact dollar figures for each state in only the Textbooks and Technology categories. This is the link to the Pioneer Institute Appendices:

http://www.accountabilityworks.org/photos/Appendices.Common_Core_Cost.AW.pdf

Consequently, I had to derive figures for Testing and Professional Development for each of the 46 states. My goal was to duplicate the Pioneer figures as closely as possible. My nationwide totals for the four categories agree quite closely with the Pioneer Institute report.

A. New York CCS Loss

The State of New York submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Race to the Top (RTTT) program and received a rank of No. 15 in Phase 1 and a rank of No. 2 in Phase 2 of that competition. The 12 "winning" states under Phase 1 and Phase 2 of RTTT received a total of \$3.94 billion. New York was awarded \$696,646,000 (\$696.646 million) under Phase 2 of RTTT.

New York received \$149,013,232 (\$149.013 million) from the federal government in competitive awards from subsequent competitions. This brings New York's total federal competitive awards to \$845,659,232 (\$845.659 million).

In the Burke Table 1, CCS Loss Per State, the CCS Total Cost for New York is \$1,088.436 million (\$1.088 billion); and the federal competitive award total is \$845.659 million. The difference is \$242.777 million. [\$1,088.436 million - \$845.659 million = \$242.777 million]

This means New York will have to find \$243 million to pay for the implementation expense of CCS.

B. New York CCS Cost

In the Burke Table 2, CCS Cost Per Student, we can see that New York has a CCS Cost per Student of \$411. This is considerably higher than the average cost per student of \$379 (average cost for the 46 CCS states).

Table 3, Total CCS Cost, lists the components making up the Total CCS Cost of \$1,088.436 million for New York. Testing cost is \$78.650 million; Professional Development cost is \$414.787 million; Textbook cost is \$157.198 million; and Technology cost is \$437.801 million.

In round numbers, **New York will spend \$78 million on Testing, \$415 million on Professional Development, \$157 million on Textbooks, and \$438 million on Technology. The Total CCS Cost for New York will be \$1,088 million (\$1.088 billion).**

Explanation of Figures

1. Testing

a. Nationwide CCS Testing Cost

Testing is a function of the number of students tested. Table 5 in my report shows the Total Nationwide Cost for the 46 CCS states. My Table 5 duplicates Pioneer Figure 2B (on page 2 of the PI report). Figure 2B shows a Total Testing Cost of \$1,240,641,297.

Table 6 (Burke report) lists the number of students and teachers in each of the 46 states; the total for the 46 states is 41,805,062 students. I obtained all of the numbers in Table 6 from the Pioneer report Appendices (NCES: 2009 - 2010 School Year).

When I divided \$1,240,641,297 by 41,805,062 students, I obtained a factor of \$29.67681993 per student. This Testing cost factor was applied to each of the 46 states to get the Testing cost for each state. My Total Testing Cost of \$1,240.641 million agrees with the Pioneer Figure 2B number.

b. New York CCS Testing Cost

New York has a total student enrollment of 2,650,201 students (Table 6 of Burke report). When I multiplied 2,650,201 students by the \$29.6768 factor per student, I obtained **\$78.650 million**.
[2,650,201 students x \$29.67681993 per student = \$78,649,538]

2. Professional Development -- The purpose of Professional Development is to train the teachers on the new Common Core academic standards. Professional Development is a function of the number of teachers that must be trained. Pioneer used a Professional Development cost of \$1,931 per teacher.

New York has 214,804 teachers (Table 6 of Burke report). When I multiplied 214,804 teachers by \$1,931 per teacher, I obtained **\$414.787 million**.
[214,804 teachers x \$1,931 per teacher = \$414,786,524]

Incidentally, my calculations produced a Professional Development Cost for California of \$605.938 million. The PI report bar graph showed the number \$606 million for California. This verifies that my calculation assumptions and methodology are correct.

3. Textbooks -- I obtained the Textbook cost for New York directly from the Pioneer Institute Appendix. The Table in the Appendix showed a Total Textbook Cost for New York of \$157,198,087 (**\$157.198 million**).

The PI Appendix listed the following numbers for Textbooks and Instructional Materials:

New York Textbook Cost
(Millions of Dollars)

Grade	Textbook Cost (\$ Millions)
K	13.655
1	13.174
2	10.505
3	10.632
4	9.739
5	9.601
6	11.201
Subtotal -- K - 6	78.507
7	11.582
8	12.013
Subtotal -- 7 - 8	23.595
9	14.855
10	14.503
11	13.387
12	12.351
Subtotal -- 9 - 12	55.096
Total -- K - 12	157.198

4. Technology -- I obtained the Technology cost for New York directly from the Pioneer Appendix. The PI Appendix lists the Total Technology Cost for New York as \$437,800,892 (\$437.801 million).

The PI Appendix provides the following information:

New York Technology Cost
(Millions of Dollars)

Description	Technology Cost (\$ Millions)	Total Technology Cost (\$ Millions)
One-Time Costs	177.269	177.269
Year 1 Operations	22.482	22.482
Years 2 - 7 Operations (Annual)	39.6749	--
Total for 6 Years (Years 2 - 7)	238.050	238.050
Total Technology Cost		437.801

C. Urgency of Decision

We know that the total cost to implement CCS in New York will be \$1,088.436 million (\$1.088 billion), but we have not said anything about the timing. The timing for the expenditures is extremely important!

A sizeable portion of the total CCS implementation cost is spent early in the process. In the Pioneer Report Figure 2B, two-thirds (66 %) of the Total Cost falls into the up-front, one-time cost period. Pioneer shows a one-time cost of \$10,522,885,028; the Total Cost is \$15,835,121,347. When I divide these two numbers, I get 66 %.

For New York, the figures are as follows:

Timing of New York CCS Costs
(Millions of Dollars)

Cost Category	Up-Front, One-Time Cost (\$ Millions)	Years 1 - 7 Cost (\$ Millions)	Total Cost -- Up-Front & for 7 Years (\$ Millions)
Testing	--	78.650	78.650
Professional Development	414.787	--	414.787
Textbooks	157.198	--	157.198
Technology	177.269	260.532	437.801
Total Cost	749.254	339.182	1,088.436
Percentage of Total	69 %	31 %	100 %

As this table shows, 69 % of the total cost (\$749.254 million) is incurred as an up-front, one-time cost. If New York has any interest in dropping the CCS, the state should act very soon. Much of the CCS implementation expense (69%) hits very early in the process. If the state delays the decision to drop CCS, it could waste \$749 million on a system that it is not going to use. The decision is urgent!

Please contact me if you would like copies of my two reports.

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