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# Conform: Exposing The Truth About Common Core And Public Education (The Control Series)



## Synopsis

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS NEVER MENTIONED IN THE CONSTITUTION. WHY? BECAUSE OUR FOUNDERS KNEW THAT IT WAS AN ISSUE FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS--NOT THE FEDERAL ONE. It's not a coincidence that the more the federal government has inserted itself into public education over the years, the worse our kids have fared. Washington dangles millions of dollars in front of states and then tells them what they have to do to get it. It's backdoor nationalization of education--and it's leading us to ruin. In Conform, Glenn Beck presents a well-reasoned, fact-based analysis that proves it's not more money our schools need--it's a complete refocusing of their priorities and a total restructuring of their relationship with the federal government. In the process, he dismantles many of the common myths and talking points that are often heard by those who want to protect the status quo. Critics of the current system are just "TEACHER BASHERS"...Teachers' unions put KIDS FIRST...Homeschooled kids SUFFERÂ both ACADEMICALLYÂ and SOCIALLY..."LOCAL CONTROL" is an excuse to protect MEDIOCRITY...COMMON COREÂ is "RIGOROUS" and "STATE LED"...Critics of Common Core are just CONSPIRACY THEORISTS...Elementary school teachers need TENURE...We CAN'T REFORM schools until we ERADICATE POVERTY...SCHOOL CHOICE takes money away from PUBLIC SCHOOLS...CHARTER SCHOOLSÂ perform poorly relative to public schools. There is no issue more important to America's future than education. The fact that we've yielded control over it to powerful unions and ideologically driven elitists is inexcusable. We are failing ourselves, our children, and our country. Conform gives parents the facts they need to take back the debate and help usher in a new era of education built around the commonsense principles of choice, freedom, and accountability.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Review of Conform: Exposing the truth about Common Core and Public Education"(2014) by Glenn Beck and Kyle Olson This is not a heavy book and it is an easy read. Clearly written and logically argued this is the book on education to read if one was to pick only one for 2014! The liberal pundits may disagree and in tandem with the usual public education officials, they may try to sabotage this book. Their assertion will be that there is only one problem: we just do not spend enough on public education and not "investing" sufficiently in the future of our children! Allegedly, nothing is intrinsically wrong with the system, only we need to spend more money to improve the children's ailing self-esteem and "clarify values"! The trend and statistics reveal the grim picture of a worsening situation despite increasing educational spending. In 1945, public school spending, nationwide, per pupil was \$974. By 1992, this amount had risen to \$5,216 (all \$ figures in 1992 dollars). Despite a 5 times rise in per pupil spending (concomitant with a 2.5 times rise in salary for teachers), the results have been dismally disappointing. From 1950 to 1992, we have witnessed a 25 point drop in the SAT math scores and a 50 point drop in the SAT verbal scores, and they have continued to plummet and remain at the bottom of the barrel since that time. And so the goals of public education have been perverted so that standards have been lowered to the lowest common denominator so that everyone is able to perform well and "no one is left behind." The truth is true academic excellence is no longer pursued; most important is not offending the sensitivities and "hurting" the self-esteem of underachievers, sometimes disrupting youths.

I see that one other person gave one star, and I completely agree with her review. This book was a great disappointment. Let me say that I am against Common Core, and I believe educational decisions should be made at the local or state level, so much of the information in the book supports my views. However, I was appalled at the way teachers are portrayed in the opening chapters of the book. I've taught for 45 years, and 29 of those were in primary education. I was a great teacher, as were most of my colleagues. This book portrays "teachers' unions" as bad guys. Well, maybe they are in some places, but they simply do not have that much influence in Texas. We like it that way. Except for a few years in the early years of my career, I didn't even belong to a national

organization. My point is that this book portrays educators in a very bad light, and it is offensive and outrageous. The book also says that anybody, not just teachers, should be making decisions about education. Well, yes and no. (By the way, I am under no illusion that Glenn Beck actually wrote this book.) Do you tell your doctor how to practice medicine? Do you tell your pharmacist how to fill your prescription? Do you tell your attorney how to argue your case in court? No. What the book fails to recognize is that teachers are professionals, and most of the time, we do know what is best for our students. The information on Common Core was useful, but I think a lot more could be said. Since I have also done educational writing for test-prep publishers, I can confirm that much of the push for Common Core is just to line publishers' pockets. A lot of changes that politicians try to push down our throats have nothing to do with actually improving education; the politicians are in bed with the publishers.

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