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My concern with establishing a national curriculum rests with the courses which seem to be given very little recognition. These consist of art, music, technology labs, physical fitness as well as student clubs. The current implementation of the CORE subjects appears to have teachers so overwhelmed, that they have little time for integrating their own styles of teaching and many are not opting to run after school programs. Some districts have already eliminated art and music programs. These are the programs that students look forward to when they attend school and without them one can expect less interest in school and consequently poorer grades and all too often drop outs. If education is expected to improve...include the FUN activities in all of the Core....and note that these are the ones that students learn experientially...the best way to learn.