

**A Critical Analysis of the Modern Standards Movement:  
A Historical Portrayal Through Archival Review, Written Documents and Oral Testimony  
from 1983 to 1995**

**by**

**Barbara O. Pilling**

**Submitted to the Faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in  
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of**

**Doctor of Education**

**in**

**Educational Leadership**

**Joan L. Curcio, Co-Chair**

**Jim C. Fortune, Co-Chair**

**M. David Alexander**

**Stephen R. Parson**

**Richard G. Salmon**

**Marie Canny**

**April 13, 1999**

**Blacksburg, Virginia**

**Keywords: Education Policy, Modern Standards Movement, Virginia Standards of  
Learning**

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(Abstract)

This is a historical study of the modern standards movement starting in 1983 with the landmark report, A Nation At Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform, and concluding in 1995 with the publication of the revised *Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The study was done through a review of available archival papers, written documents, and oral testimony.

The purpose of this study was to analyze critically the modern standards movement as a context to the development and implementation of the revised *Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools*. Objectives of the study were to identify key events and key characters that impacted the standards movement and identify issues that evolved. A main focus of the study was to develop a documentary history that identified themes that linked events and showed connections between past and current events.

Phase one of the process involved data collection from appropriate literary sources and writing the history as portrayed in written documents. Phase two of the process was done through the collection of oral testimony from key informers, especially in the Virginia movement and weaving that testimony logically and chronologically into the appropriate documentary history. Phase three of the process concluded with the identification of main themes that linked events and implications for future studies.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful acknowledgment is given to those who helped me successfully complete this study. It would not have been possible without their advice, support and encouragement.

To Dr. Joan Curcio who guided my path back into the doctoral program after an extended absence and coached me through the initial stages of the dissertation.

To Dr. Jim Fortune who believed in my original idea, gave valuable advice on how to frame the study and helped me design a methodology that captured the essence of what I wanted to do. Special thanks also for assuming the role of co-chair and helping me finalize the study.

To the other members of my committee, Dr. David Alexander, Dr. Richard Salmon, Dr. Marie Canny and Dr. Steven Parson for your time and effort in reviewing the study and for your advice throughout the process. Special thanks to Dr. Parson for taking the role of surrogate co-chair in Dr. Curcio's absence and for coaching me through the final stages of the dissertation.

To the Virginia Tech Library, both in Blacksburg and the Northern Virginia Center, for an outstanding and professional job of assisting me with this study. Special thanks to Patricia Murphy of the Northern Virginia Center who went above and beyond the call of duty in finding obscure and hard to find information.

To Dr. Teresa Caldwell for her encouragement and professional advice on how to complete the process.

To Paulette Gardner and Virginia Sparger for their patience and professional assistance in helping me format and edit the study.

And lastly to my family for their love, support and encouragement.

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