

The Detroit News

Editor's Note: No education results? Spend more money

By Ingrid Jacques

Feb. 5, 2015

It's shocking how much money the federal government is willing to shower on public education, when the return on that investment is practically nil. Even in the face of lackluster results, the government's answer is simply this: Spend more money.

Obama's latest budget increases federal intervention and spending across the education spectrum, from preschool to college. The budget hikes spending 5 percent to a whopping \$70.7 billion.

Good luck with that approach. Last year Andrew Coulson, director of the Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, took a close look at long-term trends in academic performance and spending. He found that even though K-12 federal education spending has tripled since 1970, results have remained flat.

Coulson found the correlation between spending and student achievement is zero. As he examined the states, he found the only thing that actually moved the needle was a more free-enterprise approach — such as education tax credits or vouchers.

But given the Obama administration is hostile to such programs and has tried to eliminate them, don't expect education officials to suggest anything like that.

Expect more of the same.

The American people should demand more results, given the taxpayer burden.