



Trump's education mantra: Do no coercion

Many parents and conservatives would like to see President-elect Donald Trump do away with Common Core – but one education analyst says that's easier said than done.

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Most states adopted the Common Core Standards with the lure of federal funds from Barack Obama's "Race to the Top" and with waivers from the onerous "No Child Left Behind" requirements implemented during the George W. Bush years.

Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute](#) says now that those "main levers of coercion" no longer exist, Trump is powerless to do much about the Core.

"The only thing he could do that you could see as being realistic or likely, is he could say: Okay, now we're going to have another pot of money or regulatory relief, and if you want those things you have to get rid of the Common Core."

In McCluskey's opinion, the optimum approach for Trump would be to begin relinquishing federal control over education by giving more authority to state and local governments.

"The best thing he can do is really leave it in states' hands and make sure nothing else comes from the federal government to try and influence states to use the Core," he suggests.

According to McCluskey, Trump must ensure that the "Every Student Succeeds Act," which replaced No Child Left Behind, doesn't coerce states in to using Common Core or any other standards or tests.