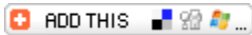




How will Congress, public react to waivers?

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 7/21/2011 4:00:00 AM



Though a few more details on Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's plans to grant waivers for "No Child Left Behind" are available, an education policy analyst says the strategy is still murky.

Because school districts are looking for a waiver for the onerous 2014 deadline of having all students proficient in math and language arts, the secretary is asking school chiefs to sign on to the Common Core Standards for a waiver. Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute's](#) Center for Educational Freedom finds that disturbing.

"All along, we've been told that these national standards...would be totally voluntary, that those states would never have to sign on them, and that the federal government would have nothing to do with them," he notes. "And this is just another potential way in which the federal government essentially forces states to adopt them."



McCluskey

Even so, he says there is virtually no hope that Congress will resolve its differences concerning the federal program this year.

"So, I think the secretary will issue waivers; I think he'll issue waivers with these requirements," McCluskey predicts. "And the big question is how Congress and the public [will] react to that."

John Kline (R-Minnesota), chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, has sent a letter to the secretary out of concern that Duncan's plan to issue waivers oversteps his authority.



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