



Analyst: Detroit's educational cuts precede others'

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An education analyst is applauding a plan by a public school official in Detroit that would make drastic changes in an attempt to get the school district out of hundreds of millions of dollars of debt.

The deficit-reduction plan by the emergency financial manager calls for the closing of nearly half of Detroit's public schools in the next two years and an increase of high school class sizes to 62 by the following year. Neal McCluskey, associate director of the Center for Educational Freedom at the [Cato Institute](#), says what is occurring in Detroit is probably something that will eventually occur in other school districts across the country.

"Detroit was already much further down the road of having to make tough decisions than [is] the rest of the country," says McCluskey. "...The stimulus let them delay those [decisions], but because they were already so decrepit and had been hemorrhaging students for decades, their day of reckoning has just come sooner."

Although he does not know how realistic it is to have 60 students in a classroom, McCluskey applauds the tough decisions proposed by the manager. "Because the reality is we spend huge amounts of money on K-12 education that is wasted," the analyst exclaims. "We spend more than almost any other industrialized nation on K-12 education -- and we get very bad results, considering how much we spend."

He says American education is "obese," and though it will hurt to slash schools and jobs, it has to happen because it is something that has been needed for decades.