



## **Analyst: Too soon to judge Obama's signature education reform**

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An education reform group study contends that the "Race to the Top" education initiative is a failure. But one think tank analyst says: "Not so fast."

The \$4-billion Race to the Top initiative was created by the Obama administration in 2009 to promote education innovation and reform. A study by the Broader, Bolder Approach to Education campaign concludes the initiative is an "abject failure." But Neal McCluskey, associate director of the Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom, contends it's too soon to tell.

"Because the Race to the Top funding hasn't even been fully sent out yet. We're nearing the end, but we haven't gotten there," he explains.

However, McCluskey believes the Broader, Bolder conclusion will be proven right eventually.

"So I guess that my prediction would be that what this group purports to have found is what will ultimately be found," he comments to OneNewsNow. "But I do think it's too early to try and reach any conclusion about what Race to the Top has or has not accomplished in terms of student outcomes."

In two rounds of competition for the funds, 11 states were awarded tens of to hundreds of millions of dollars in stimulus money over four years in hopes of bringing about significant changes to their education systems.