



NCLB: No more money, little less leverage

By: Bob Kellogg - December 02, 2013

States are getting relief from some of the rigorous requirements in order to renew their No Child Left Behind waivers.

Because the \$100 billion in economic stimulus aid for waivers is gone, Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute says Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has lost much of the leverage he once had to force states to comply with his goals.

"That was the major lever that they used for the last several years to get states to do what they want, including adopting Common Core," McCluskey tells OneNewsNow.

McCluskey says the Education Department seems to have no clear agenda, and he complains it's horrible policy for Secretary Duncan to unilaterally decide what states can or can't do.

"And we just don't know what's happening and we don't know when he makes a decision from one state versus another, whether he's doing it for political reasons or pragmatic reasons," says the Cato spokesman.

"All we know is," adds McCluskey, "he makes the law up basically as he goes along."

McCluskey says another possible factor in the DOE's easing of requirements is because of the growing public anger over the government's heavy influence in forcing states to adopt the increasingly unpopular Common Core Standards.