



Mixed review on Trump's education budget

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Concern is being expressed over a segment of the president's proposed education budget that would mean one billion dollars for private school choice.

The Trump administration is proposing a cut of just over five percent for the Department of Education. At the same time, the administration wants to allocate around one billion dollars for private school choice – something Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute argues isn't a good thing.

"For one thing, the federal government and federal policymakers are too far removed from individual families, certainly, and from communities to know what is best for those families and communities," he explains to OneNewsNow.

In other words, as he writes: "\$1 billion applicable to private school choice ... would threaten centralized regulation of choice, rendering such choice far less meaningful."

Even though taxpayers may like to hear about proposed budget cuts, McCluskey – associate director of Cato's Center for Educational Freedom – says school officials become apoplectic at the thought of reduced federal funds.

"And anytime we do see [budget cuts], of course – as has happened here – it's greeted with wailing and gnashing of teeth, especially from people who are benefitting directly from the money," he warns'

And that, he points out, typically isn't students or families. "[It] is the people who run programs or who run schools [who benefit]."

McCluskey points out that Trump's suggestion to cut funding for the DOE is very unlikely to happen, especially since this is an election year.