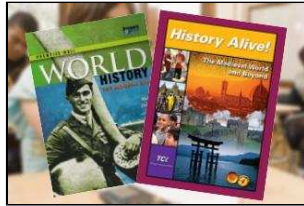




## Controversy keeping 9/11 out of history classes?

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 9/7/2011 3:50:00 AM



With the tenth anniversary of 9/11 approaching, a public policy research organization has learned that the tragic events of that day get little to no mention in classrooms throughout America.

According to a recent study, less than half the states clearly identify the 9/11 attacks in their standards for social studies. But when the subject is inevitably probed by someone or some group, Neal McCluskey, associate director of the [Cato Institute](#)'s Center for Educational Freedom, believes people will be angry or offended.

"What we see in public schools in particular is they tend to just ignore any issue that could be volatile because they don't want to get into constant conflict," he explains.



On a more pragmatic level, McCluskey believes part of the problem is that historians have not caught up with that event.

"States and districts haven't gotten to the point of integrating that period of time into their history classes," he suggests. "That said, I don't think that's the main reason; I think the main reason is trying to avoid controversy. But I think that's probably also part of it."

Nonetheless, schools across the country are expected to see the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks as an opportunity to memorialize the event and possibly use it as a foundation for discussion.

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