



## *Freedom needed for effectiveness in education*

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 4/2/2012 3:30:00 AM

An advocacy group devoted to preventing the misuse of standardized tests predicts widespread cheating will continue in public schools.

[FairTest.org](#) references Donald T. Campbell's law to warn of the consequences of standardized testing -- when test scores become the goal of the teaching process, they lose their value as indicators and distort the educational process. Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute](#) agrees with that assessment.

"I think there is ... a place for standardized testing, but I think that they're right that it has become almost the end-all and be-all of education since No Child Left Behind," he comments. "And that is a terrible disservice to students."

And he does not think it would be any better for all 50 states and the District of Columbia to conduct their own standardized tests to assess what students know.

"I think ultimately what we need is a free market or freedom in education," he suggests, "where people can choose the schools that teach and assess students the way individual parents think is best for their students, and educators have the freedom to try lots of different ways to assess learning."

McCluskey concludes that the system needs real freedom in order to create assessment mechanisms that make sense for the widely diverse population of children.

The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace.