



Feds saying one thing, doing another re: education

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An education expert is criticizing the head of the Department of Education for acting like all the answers for all of the problems in public education have to come from that federal agency.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is not happy that Florida schools are offering tutoring for students using Title I federal funding, arguing that tutoring is not effective. Neal McCluskey, associate director for the Center for Educational Freedom at the [Cato Institute](#), says it is contradictory for Duncan to criticize Florida's decision to continue offering supplemental education services when federal law requires that the states do so.

"This is a classic example of somebody from Washington pretending to have all the answers -- and choosing which federal laws they want to enforce [and] which ones they want to ignore," he laments.

Duncan complains that the administration has given Florida a waiver from No Child Left Behind but that the legislature still insists on implementing tutoring.

"They try and then have it both ways when they act like they are all for freedom and letting districts try things and not forcing things that they say don't work, but at the same time they're trying to tell every single state -- and tell every single district -- how they are going to operate," says the Cato spokesman.

McCluskey says that the secretary has no constitutional authority whatsoever to inject himself into Florida's education system.