



Preliminary results of Common Core testing

By Bob Kellogg - 11/6/2012

Education achievement tests in Kentucky, the first in the nation tied to the state Common Core Standards, shows a drop in student achievement for both elementary and middle school students.

The drop in the scores, some by as much as 30 percent, was not unexpected by state education officials. Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute explains the probable reason for the dip.

"That could be because the standards are higher, the tests are harder," he suggests. "But it also tends to reflect that students have gotten accustomed to a certain type of tests they were taking, and so they're confronted with the need for new testing strategies -- things like that."

McCluskey says The Bluegrass State is a predictor of what parents and students will see in other states, though this test is only preliminary.

"The fact of the matter is Kentucky adopted these things ahead of almost anyone else, and Kentucky is using a test that will be replaced in a couple of years by the new national tests that are supposed to go specifically with the Common Core," the advocate for educational freedom explains.

Because Kentucky's tests will eventually be replaced, McCluskey concludes there is a limit on what can be learned from these early results.