



## EDUCATION

# Measuring teacher effectiveness

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 4/19/2012 4:10:00 AM

The Measures of Effective Teaching Project is finding that assessments are not effective in showing the differences between the most- and least-effective teachers.

Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute](#) believes there are improvements being made in teacher evaluations and that development is headed in the right direction. However, he says, there is a long way to go.

"Whether we'll ever reach something everyone can agree upon, I think it's very unlikely we're ever going to reach unanimity with teachers and school boards and parents all saying they're completely happy with any measure that's used," he acknowledges.

McCluskey, associate director of Cato's Center for Educational Freedom, says until recently, teacher evaluations by school administrators were totally inadequate and basically just a formality.

"Until recently, evaluations have just been *pro forma*, where the principal would go in and observe a teacher once a year, maybe twice a year, and sit there for half an hour -- and then basically say all teachers were doing a good job," explains the education expert. "We know that that was not a good assessment."

Many researchers believe that instead of relying solely on student test scores, evaluators need to use multiple measures, including student observations, to help identify what works in teaching.