



Eliminating standardized tests

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Governors and education chiefs in 45 states have pledged to support the idea of educational Common Core. But some fear the whole idea could be derailed.

The Common Core State Standards, championed by the Obama administration, have been adopted by 46 states. But Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute](#) says advocates worry that many states may fail to implement the standards when it comes time, effectively derailing the program.

"The real challenge now is going to be when Congress re-authorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, will standards and testing still be required to get federal money?" he wonders. "Because if they are, then it'll be a lot harder to avoid the Common Core."

But McCluskey, who does not favor the one-size-fits-all Common Core Standards, believes the congressional rewrite of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will eliminate standardized testing.

"Then you'll see Common Core just kind of disintegrate," he predicts. "States will use what they like, they won't use what they don't like, and if they don't do well on the standards, it'll have no ramifications."

So he concludes that opponents of the Common Core Standards need to make sure that the revised education act eliminates standardized testing as a requirement for receiving federal funding.