



Common Core and standardized tests

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Conservatives and liberals alike are becoming increasingly critical of the proposed Common Core State Standards heralded by the Obama administration.

Some educators say the new standards are untested, and they are skeptical about whether significant improvement in student achievement will be seen once they are implemented. Others argue the system is federal intrusion into local schools. Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute](#) says that is the recipe for a lot of displeased people.

"They have aggravated small-government conservatives and Libertarians, but they've also angered lots of liberals, actually, who don't like the idea of the federal government forcing rigid standard and curriculum regime on them," he explains.

McCluskey thinks the real question is how much of an issue it becomes for parents and the general public.

"I don't think it'll become a big issue for the general public until these tests are introduced and, in particular, if there are some sorts of high stakes connected to the test so schools would lose money if they don't do well on them, or students would be held back a grade, or something like that," he suggests. "Then everyone will pay attention to them."

He hopes Congress will take standardized testing out of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act when it is reauthorized, which will kill the Common Core Standards ([see earlier story](#)).