

EDUCATION

Preventing future NCLB scandals

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 11/7/2011 4:00:00 AM

Because of the massive cheating scandal that was uncovered earlier this year, a number of Atlanta schools have lost their standing in the No Child Left Behind program.

In July, more than 40 of Atlanta's 100 schools were caught cheating on the standardized tests required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Neal McCluskey of the Cato Institute blamed the scandal on the government program ([see earlier story](#)), and analyst Lindsey Burke of [The Heritage Foundation](#) says the pressure Washington places on local districts is enormous.

"Schools and states have become so concerned with showing accountability to Washington, instead of providing information that is useful to parents and to taxpayers," she explains. "But I think that's led them to do things that they wouldn't have otherwise done."

Because the schools have lost of their standing dating back to 2001, a number of them could be faced with having to give back to Washington thousands of dollars they received under NCLB. But Burke offers a solution.

"Ultimately, what we need to see are proposals that allow the federal government to kind of back off of states and give states control over their state education dollars and decision-making authority," she suggests.



The education analyst adds that while Atlanta schools are not the only ones in this situation, that scandal is the most visible occurrence this past year.