



Education program raises questions

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Another new educational pilot program being rolled out boasts that it will be using the best high school curricula in the world.

The National Center on Education and the Economy, which introduced the program, says it is based on 20 years of research from countries that normally outperform the U.S. academically.

Neal McCluskey of the [Cato Institute](#) has some reservations. “The irony of this is they are experimenting with something different, and that’s good -- but the ultimate goal is to make the education system *even more* centralized than it already is,” he says.

The program has a lower division for those aimed at attending community colleges, and an upper division for those planning to attend a university. McCluskey notes there are federal funds for this, but the Department of Education is not heavily involved.

“This is not something that I’ve seen the Department of Education talking about a lot or making a big deal out of,” says McCluskey. “... Since it’s getting federal funding and it’s tied to the [Common Core \[standards\]](#), [it’s obvious that it is] something that the Obama administration is interested in, even if its kind of at a low level.”

Twenty-one high schools in Arizona, Connecticut, Kentucky and Mississippi with widely diverse groups of students are participating.