



Tax credit programs the way to go

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 8/1/2011 4:00:00 AM



Schaeffer

A study conducted by the Center on Education Policy says the focus on voucher school programs is shifting from academic achievement to school choice as a virtue in itself.

The study shows that the impact of voucher programs is minimal compared to the outcomes of public schools, and Adam Schaeffer of the [Cato Institute](#) says that is because government regulations get in the way.

"The voucher programs in particular have a lot of restrictions that I think will mitigate their effectiveness and make them less powerful than we would see in a freer market," he contends.



However, the school choice programs do have higher graduation rates and operate at a fraction of the cost of public schools. So Schaeffer prefers education tax credit programs.

"Those tend to be very lightly regulated, if at all, and the regulations that they do have are focused more on just financial transparency for the schools involved," the policy analyst explains. "And there's no heavy restriction, as there are in voucher programs in terms of curriculum, admissions policy and payment."

He goes on to add that more general tax credit programs than voucher programs are currently at work.



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