



No top on 'Race to the Top' fund



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The Obama administration is asking for over a billion dollars more to pad the "[Race to the Top](#)" fund because the little-known fund created from the federal "stimulus" package is apparently already underfunded.

Lawmakers set aside more than \$4 billion in aid for the nation's schools under the "Race to the Top" program, and although very little of that money has been distributed, the Obama administration is asking for over a billion dollars more with apparently no end or cap in sight.



Lindsay Burke, a research assistant at [The Heritage Foundation](#), says there are better ways to achieve education reform without extra cost to the taxpayer.

"The focus really should be on using existing education funds and giving states flexibility to implement the education policies that really best suit their needs," she explains. "Florida is a great example of this. Through State Senate reforms, Florida has been able to greatly improve education without a large infusion of federal dollars."



Neal McCluskey, associate director of the [Cato Institute's](#) Center for Educational Freedom, argues that under the Race to the Top program, Washington, DC, is exerting unconstitutional power over America's educational institutions.

Although the program is a part of the federal stimulus, Burke believes the funds will not be paid back to the taxpayers and that the final price tag is unknown as it is left open-ended. That may be one reason why Texas Governor Rick Perry has informed the U.S. Department of Education that [his state will not accept \\$700 million](#) in funding from the program.



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