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## States giving up on 'unrealistic demands'

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With Congress failing to reauthorize "No Child Left Behind" as the looming 2014 deadline to meet federal education standards approaches, some states are rebelling against the program.

Idaho, Montana, and South Dakota all plan to disregard some key pieces of the federal education program if Congress fails to act. Neal McCluskey, associate director at the [Cato Institute](#), says the state boards of education are fed up.

"It's impossible to meet the unrealistic demands of No Child Left Behind, and they're saying they're simply not going to try and do it anymore," he explains.

McCluskey compares the standoff between the states and the federal government to a game of chicken, where each waits for the other to back down first.

"I think what's most likely is that neither this administration in Washington nor [the] states are going to be willing to enforce No Child Left Behind, especially as we reach the 2014 deadline, [when] every student is supposed to be proficient in math and reading," the Cato Institute associate director suggests. "And everyone knows the majority won't even be close to that."



McCluskey

His recommendation? No Child Left Behind should be revoked and the federal government should remove itself from elementary and secondary education.