




School choice solution to lag in education

Bob Kellogg - OneNewsNow - 6/23/2011 4:00:00 AM 

A report from an organization that works to develop solutions to the challenges in education says minority men in the U.S. are lagging in nearly every area of educational attainment.



The College Board Advocacy & Policy Center's findings show that the lag involves African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Americans. And Neal McCluskey, associate director of the [Cato Institute](#)'s Center for Educational Freedom, says socio-economic factors are a significant part of the problem.

"There is a very high correlation between some of the socio-economic status and how they do academically," he notes. "Generally, the lower you are socio-economically, the worse you do."

But other factors contribute to the problem, so McCluskey suggests the solution is continuing to implement school choice in districts throughout the country.

"In 1990, there were not charter schools. Now, they are all over the country and enrolling well over one-million kids. There are voucher programs, tax credit programs -- there's lots of move toward school choice, but it's not enough," he contends. "The choices we have are hamstrung, but all the indications are we're going in the right direction."

Beginning in the 1960s, he notes, educators started to focus on self esteem instead of academics. However, the Cato Institute associate director thinks parents today, given a choice, would choose schools that emphasize scholastic studies.