

EDUCATION, WORLDMAGBLOG

Public school superintendent in chief?



Written by **MICKEY MCLEAN**
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On Tuesday, Sept. 8, the first day of school for many, **President Obama plans to address** public school students via video. Some **education experts are concerned** that the lesson plans that will accompany the speech (here are links: **pre-K-6** and **7-12**) will be used to indoctrinate kids to support the president's political agenda.

Neal McCluskey, associate director of Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom told Fox News, "In general, I don't think there's a problem if the president uses the bully pulpit to tell kids to work hard, study hard and things like that. But there are some troubling hints in this, both educationally and politically."

What also concerns McCluskey is that parents, as taxpayers, would be in effect paying for this influence on their children, regardless of their political affiliation: "That's the fundamental problem. They could easily be funding the indoctrination of their children."

Frederick Hess, director of education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute, added that he believed the lesson plans cross a line: "I don't think it's appropriate for teachers to ask students to help promote the president's preferred school reforms and policies. It very much starts to set up the president as a superintendent in chief."

One of the post-speech activities in the lesson plan calls for students to "Write letters to themselves about what they can do to help the president." Here's a suggestion: Students can write to remind themselves to pray for President Obama each and every day.

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