McGuinn’s account will help form debates over the tensions between equity and excellence and the government’s ability to promote both.

The book will also inform discussions about how federal education policy has influenced the American federal system more generally. McGuinn argues that NCLB represents a “new educational federalism,” in which Washington is now a “national educationism . . . where those states that fail in meeting standards are being held accountable for their poor performance.”

By addressing the federalist issue, though, McGuinn provides a great vehicle for informing debates about how subsequent federal education efforts will likely affect relationships across the American federal system.

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