Lawmakers Question Tutor Rules

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Six Democratic House members and a U.S. senator from Illinois objected Wednesday to a U.S. Department of Education decision barring the Chicago Public Schools from tutoring kids in chronically low-scoring schools after Jan. 31.

Federal education officials contend that because the Chicago district is chronically low-scoring, it should turn over the tutoring required under the No Child Left Behind law to private companies.

However, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and U.S. Representatives Rahm Emanuel, Jan Schakowsky, Jesse Jackson Jr., Danny K. Davis, Luis Gutierrez and Bobby Rush contended in a letter to U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige that private tutors would represent a "tremendous misuse of resources." Private tutors cost about four times as much as Chicago Public Schools tutors, meaning as many as 56,000 of 80,000 students might lose their tutoring, the group warned.