

CX DEBATE TOPIC ANALYSIS

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RESOLVED: THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE
ITS FUNDING AND/OR REGULATION OF
ELEMENTARY AND/OR SECONDARY EDUCATION
IN THE UNITED STATES

TERMS WITHIN THE RESOLUTION

USFG - United States Federal Gov't

Should

Substantially

Increase

Funding

Regulation

Elementary education

Secondary Education

Various terms within the resolution will offer different case ideas for the affirmative team and argumentation opportunities for the negative team.

USFG - UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

What is their jurisdiction?

Historically, the 10th Amendment to the US Constitution preserves the rights of states to govern themselves. It states:

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

USFG (CONT'D)

What does that mean? It means that the federal government cannot directly regulate education of students within the United States.

Are there exceptions? Of course!

- Department of Defense Education Activity - <http://www.dodea.edu/>
- American Indian Reservation Schools - Bureau of Indian Education, Department of the Interior <https://bie.edu/Schools/>

USFG (CONT'D)

Sooo? How do affirmatives remain topical? What is the USFG jurisdiction? Or sphere of influence?

- Funding
- Standards
- Support
- International Standards

FUNDING

Whenever the USFG wants to have influence, purse strings are a go-to strategy!

1. USFG funds for elementary and secondary education are about 8% of the total spent on education. This equates to approximately \$92 billion dollars annually. The other 92% are from state and local budgets.
2. Roughly 1.7 billion per state, including Guam and Puerto Rico, if it were distributed evenly. (Which it isn't).

FUNDING (CONT'D)

Funds are provided in the form of Grants and federal student loans.

This includes everything from Head Start programs (beginning for infants/toddlers) to college students, and graduate research funding.

Much of the 8% comes from the Department of Education, but not all of it.

FUNDING - AFF INTERESTS

Affirmatives can tie funding increases to reforms:

- Directly topical, as the resolution specifically allows for increased funding.

Examples: (not exhaustive)

- Teaching Standards
- Testing Standards
- Special Education services

STANDARDS

Part of the charge of the Department of Defense is to track educational progress in the United States and support education to encourage competitiveness of our citizenry/workforce.

- National Certifications
- Testing Requirements
- Special Education Services - IDEA
- Civil Rights

SUPPORT

- Grants for research
- Grants for students in poverty
- Grants for STEAM/CTE
- Grants for Women
- Vouchers for Home/Private schooling

USFG FROM THE NEGATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Expect Federalism DisAdvantages

- Increased Federal Role tips the balance of power between the Federal and State Governments
- The tip pushes us “over the edge”
- Nuclear war.

Expect States CounterPlans

- Variations of mandates could be more or less specific
- States can increase regulation on face
- Local Control praised

SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE

Affirmatives will define this term.

- Teams need to research current funding and determine a reasonable definition of what a substantial increase will be
- Teams need to research current regulation and determine a reasonable definition of what a substantial increase will be
- Negative teams WILL challenge this term, be ready.
- Negative teams SHOULD challenge this term...

SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE (CONT'D)

Funding - Affirmatives should anticipate Budget DA's, Funding DA's, etc., if they are increasing funding.

- If increased funding is contingent on something (like improved test scores, compliance with federal standards, completion of national certification, etc.) - Affirmatives should anticipate Effects Topicality arguments.

Regulation - Affirmatives should anticipate Federalism DA's and States CounterPlans if they are increasing regulation.

FUNDING

Remember the 8%, or \$92,000,000,000.00 (billion)? That comes from the Federal Government.

If you increase funding, you need to increase percentage (10% is a nice, round, figure - \$115,000,000,000.00)

Where can you find \$23 billion in wasted spending? OR arguments that a \$23 billion budget increase is no problem?

It needs to be defensible increase. Budget DA's are standard and you need to demonstrate why this increase is necessary.

FUNDING (CONT'D)

Be creative with your funding, “normal means” is BORING.

If you can demonstrate government waste in one sector, you can redirect funds to your plan, without actually increasing the federal budget.

What military projects are no longer feasible? Where can we cut “pork barrel” spending? More specific funding makes it more difficult for negatives to link generic DA's.

REGULATION

- Start with USFG formal jurisdiction:
 - American Indian Reservation Schools
 - DOD Schools
- Look for what's working, apply to all schools
- Look for what's NOT working and adjust federal regulations to fix it.

REGULATION CONT'D

- Aff's need to research where regulation is working at the state level and look for plans that would federalize these standards.
- Look up standards for national certification - National Board for Professional Teaching Standards - <http://www.nbpts.org/>
- Remember the funding loophole - if they can't mandate it, they can encourage it with funding incentives.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Refers to the ***first 8 years of formal education*** in most jurisdictions -

<https://nces.ed.gov/FastFacts/display.asp?id=84>

Including: <https://www.usa.gov/school>

Early Childhood - pre-kindergarten, Head Start

Primary - Elementary (grades 1-5 or 1-6)

Middle/Junior High - Grades 6-8 or 7-9

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Refers to High School - grades 10-12 or 9-12

Could be an interesting area for Topicality. Generally speaking college & university are often included as “secondary” education. However, the official designation is

Post-Secondary education.

Would cases impacting colleges & university regulations be topical, non-topical, or extra topical? Depends on your source.

GENERAL NOTES

The resolution does NOT specify:

Public

Private

Charter

The Resolution allows broad territory:

Funding and/or Regulation

Elementary and/or Secondary

CASE IDEAS

Head start

Early Literacy

ELL/ESL

Migrant Education

American Indian Education

Women

STEAM

LBGTQ+

Private Schools

Public Schools

Charter Schools

Fine Arts

Minority Populations

Poverty

CASE IDEAS (CONT'D)

Religion in School

ESSA

NCLB

Home Schooling

School Vouchers

Educator Certification

Educator Training

Continuing Education for Educators

Research Grants

DOD Schools

Straight Increase in DOE Budget

NEGATIVE POSITIONS

DisAdvantages

- Federalism
- Budget/Funding
- Politics
- US Competitiveness

Counter Plans:

- States Rights
- Abolish the DOE
- Vouchers

Kritikal Arguments:

- Foucault
- LGBTQ+
- Racism
- Women/Gender
- American Indian
- DOD/Military