

# Welcome to the Economic Thinking Online 2017-2018 ... Federal K12 Education Reform

For over twenty years Greg Rehmke has been a speaker at University Interscholastic League fall speech and debate conferences, provided economic commentary at the Kansas State Fair Demonstration Debates, and given topic presentations at debate camps on the economics of debate topics, including Mackinac Center Debate Workshops.

Federal government funding and regulations of education have increased significantly over the last fifty years. Federal support for elementary, secondary and vocational education increased from \$4.5 billion in 1965 to \$40.2 billion in 2016 (in constant 2016 dollars).

Other Federal K12 funding comes from the Dept. of Agriculture budget: \$22 billion in 2016 for school lunches and related programs.

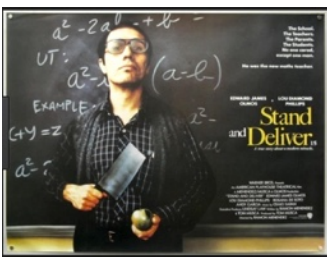


The 2017-18 NSDA resolution calls for increasing federal funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.

The Trump administration supports charter schools and school choice, but so did the Obama and Bush Administrations. Public charter schools operate within school districts but have additional flexibility to offer targeted or specialized programs for students. Private charter schools, active in some states, receive state funding through vouchers.

Efforts to expand charter schools are controversial, as critics see them as draining funds, reform energy, and high-achieving students from existing public schools.

Another area of controversy are national testing and curriculum mandates by the federal government, from *No Child Left Behind* in the Bush Administration's to *Common Core* in the Obama Administration.




A wide range of online courses, from Khan Academy and other providers have “flipped” some subjects, with course content watched outside of class ahead of discussion and “homework” with teachers at school.

Economic Thinking Online presentations present key economic principles relevant to the resolution and reform proposals. Outlines offer links to various online education reforms videos, articles, studies and websites.

For Economic Thinking Online workshops, visit: <http://economicsinacloud.com/>  
Part of the Federal K-12 reform ET workshop is available now (first three or four presentations). Additional presentations will be available in mid-September. Additional education articles available on [EconomicThinking.org](http://EconomicThinking.org) and [debate-central.ncpa.org](http://debate-central.ncpa.org)  
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## Economic Thinking Online Workshops

**Gregory Rehmke** directs programs for Economic Thinking and has written and spoken widely



on the economics of national debate topics. Over five thousand high school and home school students have attended Economic Thinking Workshops.