



FLORIDA CIVICS & DEBATE INITIATIVE

*A Partnership with the Florida Debate Initiative
and the Florida Education Foundation*



PRESENTED BY JOHN DUEBEL

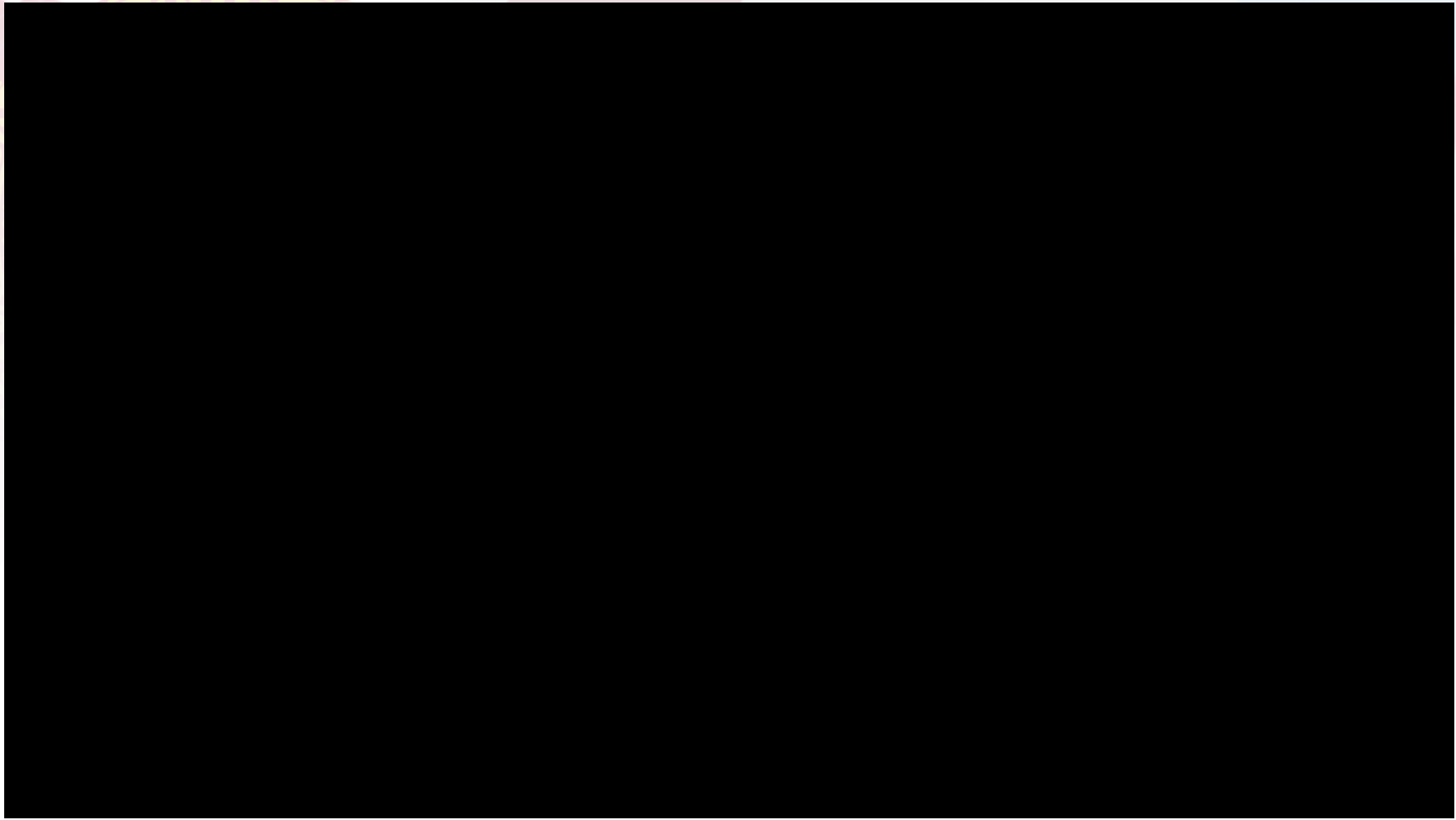
JOHN DUEBEL
DIRECTOR
FLORIDA CIVICS AND
DEBATE INITIATIVE



“ Governor Ron DeSantis
is **LEADING THE CHARGE**
for Florida to become the
NUMBER ONE STATE in the
nation **FOR CIVICS EDUCATION,**
and we are well on our way. ”

Florida Commissioner of Education
Manny Diaz, Jr.





“WE ARE THE STUDENTS
OF THE FLORIDA CIVICS AND DEBATE INITIATIVE.”

THE OPENING ARGUMENT



THE STATE OF CIVICS



**FEWER THAN
HALF**

OF AMERICANS CAN
CORRECTLY NAME THE
THREE BRANCHES OF
GOVERNMENT.

We the People

1 IN 5 AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT THE
FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS OF THE U.S.
CONSTITUTION ARE CALLED THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
RATHER THAN THE BILL OF RIGHTS.



17%

ONLY 17% OF THE
ENTIRE U.S. ELECTORATE
IS IN THE AGE GROUP
OF 18-29 YEARS.



70%

70% OF AFRICAN AMERICAN
MALE DEBATE PARTICIPANTS
ARE MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE
FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAN THOSE
WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE
IN DEBATE.



87%

DEBATE CAN INCREASE
CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS
BY AS MUCH AS 87%.



98.5%

98.5% OF DEBATE STUDENTS
ATTEND COLLEGE, AND
DEBATE PARTICIPATION
INCREASES THE CHANCE OF
BEING OFFERED COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS.



HOW DEBATE ENRICHES CIVICS

- Debate develops citizenship.**
- Debaters must understand the role of government and how citizens participate in a republic.**
- Debate students learn about different political philosophies as they consider how to frame arguments.**
- Debate requires students to reference primary and secondary source documents.**
- Debate builds a strong civic disposition.**



END-OF-COURSE PASSAGE RATES



END-OF-COURSE PASSAGE RATES ON MIDDLE SCHOOL CIVICS AND HIGH SCHOOL U.S. HISTORY

SCHOOL YEAR
2021-2022

72% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

*Statewide schools went
from 64% to 69%

SCHOOL YEAR
2020-2021

67% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

69% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS

*Statewide schools went
from 63% to 65%

*Civics end-of-course
passage rate*

*History end-of-course
passage rate*

63% PASS RATE
IN FCDI SCHOOLS



OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



THE NATIONAL CIVICS AND DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP: THE GREAT DEBATE

THE DIFFERENCE

The Great Debate vs. other National Competitions

TRIATHLON STYLE

- ✓ *Students compete through a triathlon-style event to demonstrate a broader command of skills, including civics, debate and speech events in the competition offerings.*

EXPERIENCE

- ✓ *Students are required to have competed in at least two prior debate competitions to lay the framework for successful participation at the national level.*

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✓ *Students are offered full scholarships to attend, allowing more access to under-served populations.*



“IT REALLY IS ONE OF ‘THE GREATEST DEBATES’ I’VE EVER BEEN TO, AND I LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT.”

SAAYA LIJO | 2023 GREAT DEBATE CHAMPION

FCDI STUDENT AT APOPKA HIGH SCHOOL

FCDI STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

APRIL 20, 2024 | ORLANDO, FLORIDA



609 STUDENT ATTENDEES



80 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED



140 AWARDS GIVEN



FCDI DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Started in 2021, Now an Annual Event

Immersing Florida Students in Government

- Participating in a Mock Session
- Experiencing a Supreme Court Tour
- Hearing from Key Government Officials
- Eating Lunch in and Exploring the Florida Historic Capitol



Jeanette Nuñez @LtGovNunez · 23h
Yesterday, I spoke with students participating in the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative.

This program is an excellent way to develop engaged and informed students, all while enhancing their civic knowledge and debate skills.

@GovRonDeSantis and I are proud of their work!



10 25 96 6.1K

Ron DeSantis @GovRonDeSantis
It was great meeting students from the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative during FCDI Day at the Capito!

We had a record number of students participate in this important initiative this year.

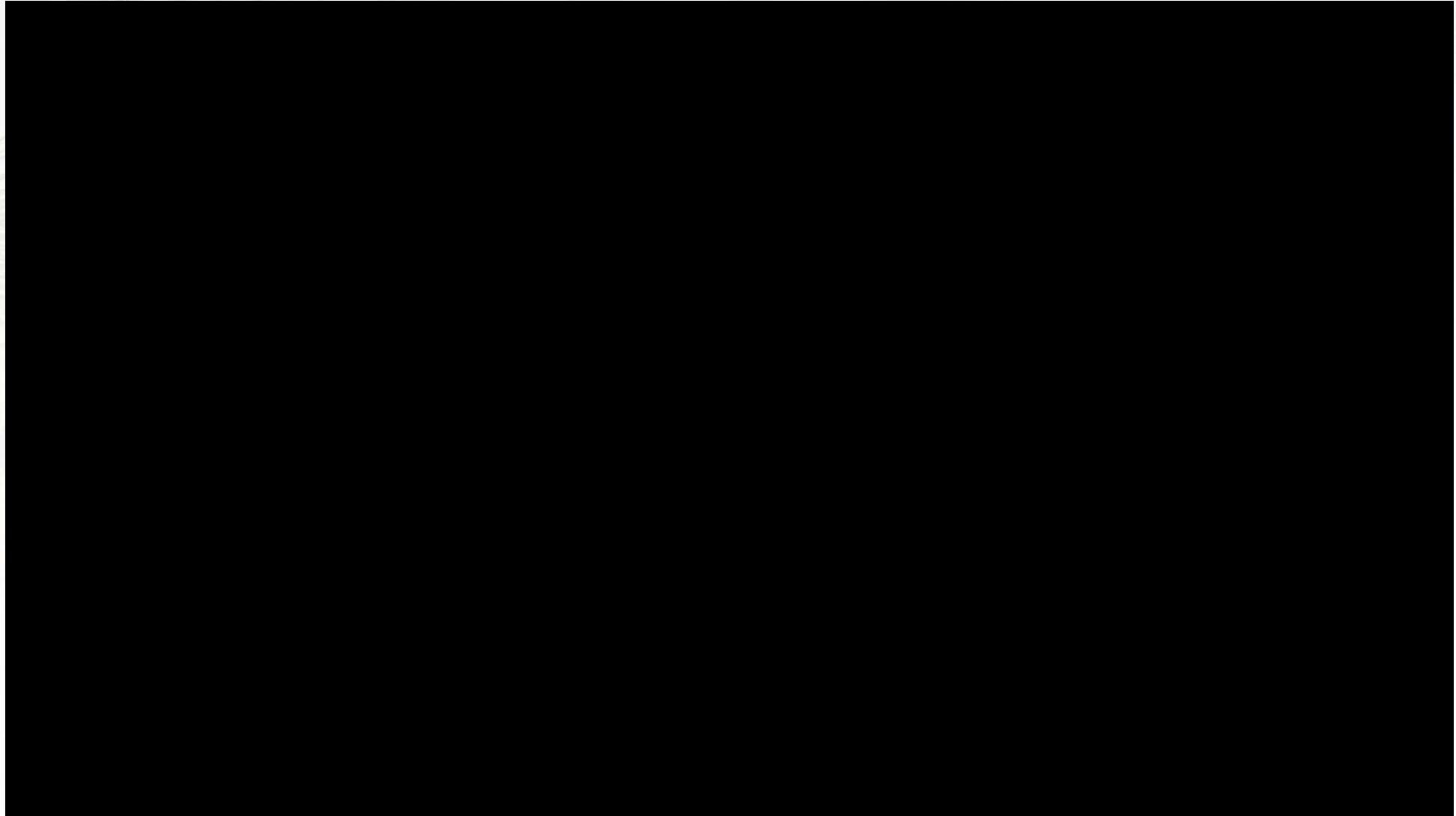


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FCDI DAY AT THE CAPITOL IN ACTION



FLORIDA CIVICS AND DEBATE INITIATIVE
SUMMER

CAMP





FCDI STUDENTS CAN
EARN
BRIGHT
FUTURES
HOURS
DURING COMPETITIVE
EVENTS



STUDENT IMPACT STORIES

“FORGET A SPARK,

IT LIT A FIRE
UNDER ME.”

At that moment, I started to truly understand why it was so important to give young people such as myself a voice. Over the following two days, I saw amazing speakers and well-informed youth use their words to communicate not only their arguments, but their determination to be seen and heard. Forget a spark, it lit a fire under me. Each flame burning with ideas and aspirations for what I wanted to not become, but make of myself.”

CARESSA BIRKS

PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER SCHOOL



STUDENT IMPACT STORIES

“I COULD NEVER BE
WHO I AM TODAY
WITHOUT DEBATE.”

I could never be who I am today without the people who have guided me here. Civics and Debate is so important to me because the connections we are able to create last for a lifetime. I initially thought that civics and debate would only offer me confidence while speaking, but I learned so much more. Not only did confidence follow, but the formation of speech and portraying what I wanted to say also came along. When I look at a crowd, I don't see a multitude of people with all eyes on me, I instead see a vast sea of opportunity waiting to be touched upon.”

ANN MOYWAYWA

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAMPION AT THE 2023 GREAT DEBATE
ABRAHAM LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL



GETTING STARTED



DEBATE TEAM FACTS

Important Things to Know About Starting a Debate Team



A school's competitive debate team can be small or large. While students represent their school, each competes in different events.



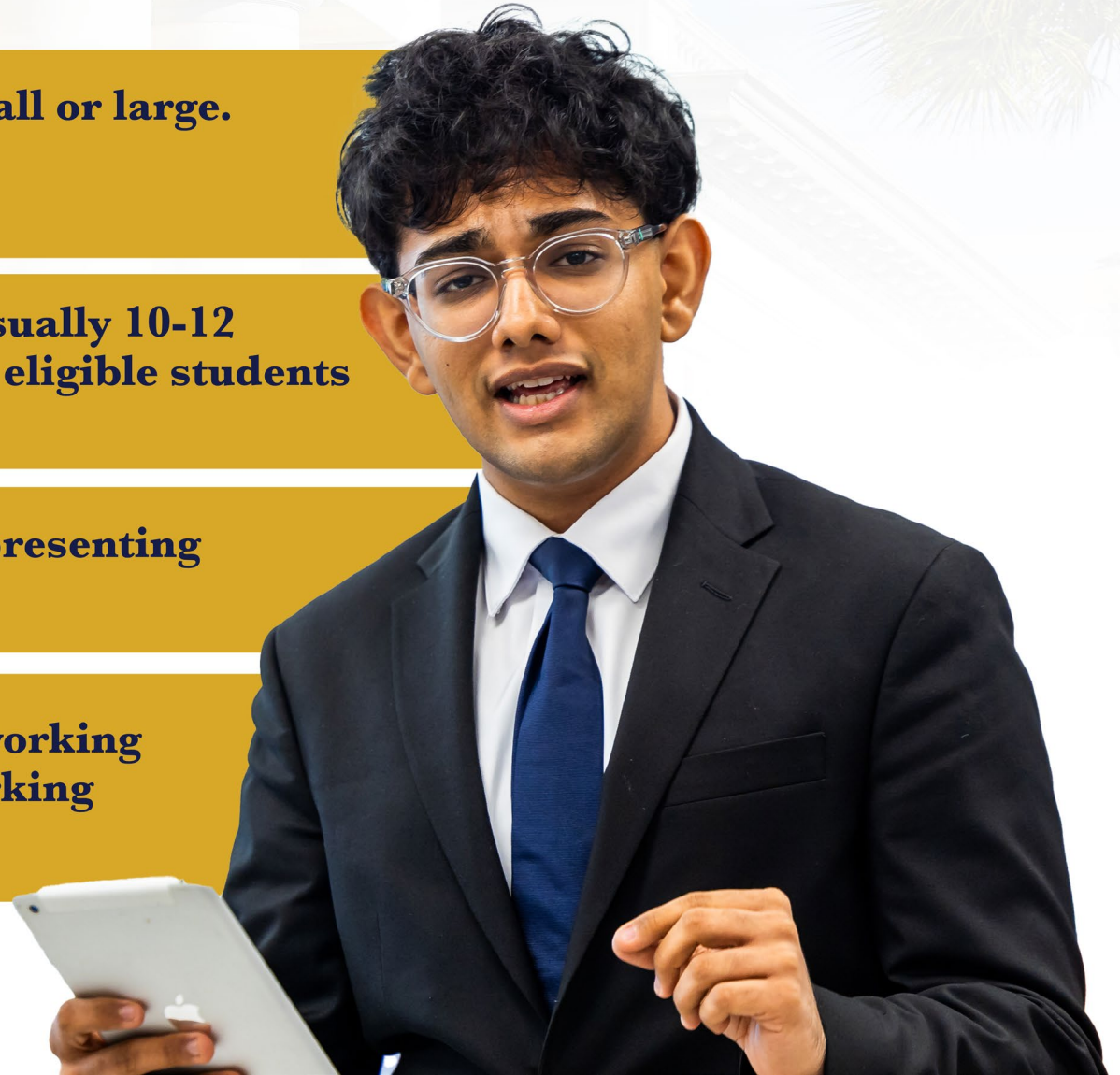
In competitive speech and debate, there are usually 10-12 competitions annually. In FCDI competitions, eligible students can earn Bright Futures hours.



Students compete as individuals (or pairs) representing their teams.



Coaches spend a significant amount of time working with individual students, each of whom is working on different skills.



DEBATE TEAM FACTS

Important Things to Know About Starting a Debate Team



Debate can be offered as an extra-curricular activity or a co-curricular activity where students on the team also take debate class.



A debate coach does not need to have a background in debate, but must be willing and eager to learn new things.



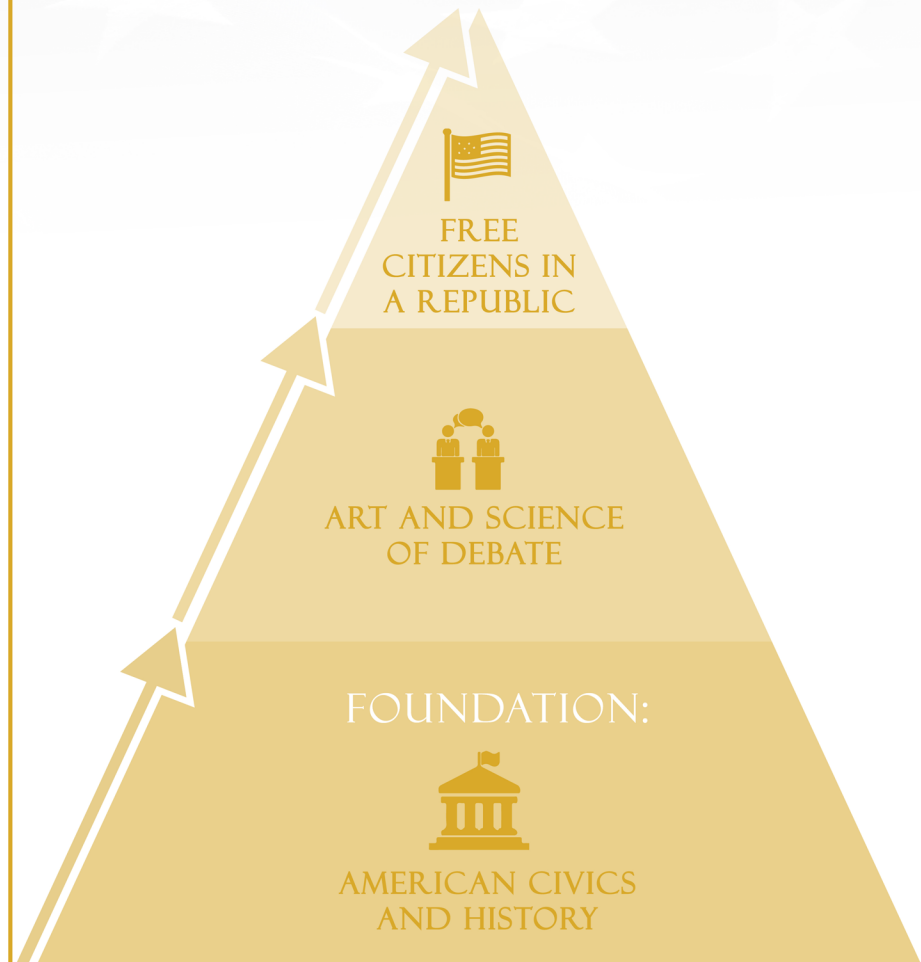
The ideal debate coach will guide and encourage students to overcome their fear of public speaking.



Many teams start small and grow larger through a natural process. Students' success and accomplishment in competition can become contagious.



THE FRAMEWORK TO A BETTER NATION



Forbes identifies the six most important business leadership communication skills:

- Written
- Verbal
- Presentation
- Non-Verbal
- Cross-Cultural
- Listening

Debate uniquely supports and develops each of those necessary business skills.

Education, built on a solid foundation of American history and civics, along with passionate teachers trained to develop debate skills, lead to independent and engaged citizens and a better tomorrow.

FCDI COACH EXPECTATIONS

COMPETE IN TOURNAMENTS

➔ Compete in at least three FCDI tournaments every academic year.

GET INVOLVED

➔ Get involved and become a part of the debate community. Get to know your regional ambassador, ask for support, communicate with FCDI leadership and other coaches.

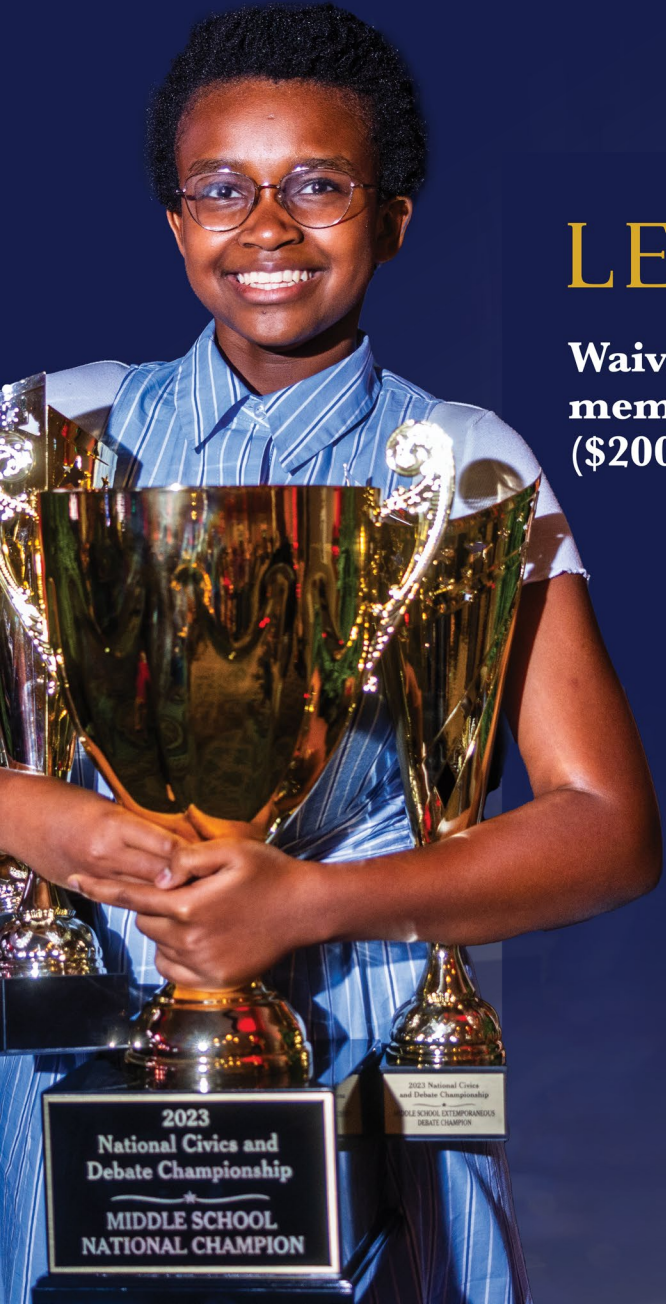
ATTEND TRAININGS

➔ Attend the different training opportunities that are offered throughout the year.

TAKE THE GRANT SURVEY

➔ Participate in a survey for our grant report each year.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



LEVEL 1

Waiving the team membership fee (\$200.00)

LEVEL 2

Team membership fee waived

+ \$1,000 team stipend

LEVEL 3

Team membership fee waived

+ \$2,000 team stipend

LEVEL 4

Team membership fee waived

+ \$3,000 for new/startup teams



OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS



speech & debate learning *Retreat*

HOLLYWOOD | JUNE 2024 | PANAMA CITY



42 MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS



96% INDICATED THEY WILL USE WHAT THEY LEARNED IN THE CLASSROOM



100% STATED THEY WOULD USE WHAT THEY LEARNED TO COACH SPEECH AND DEBATE

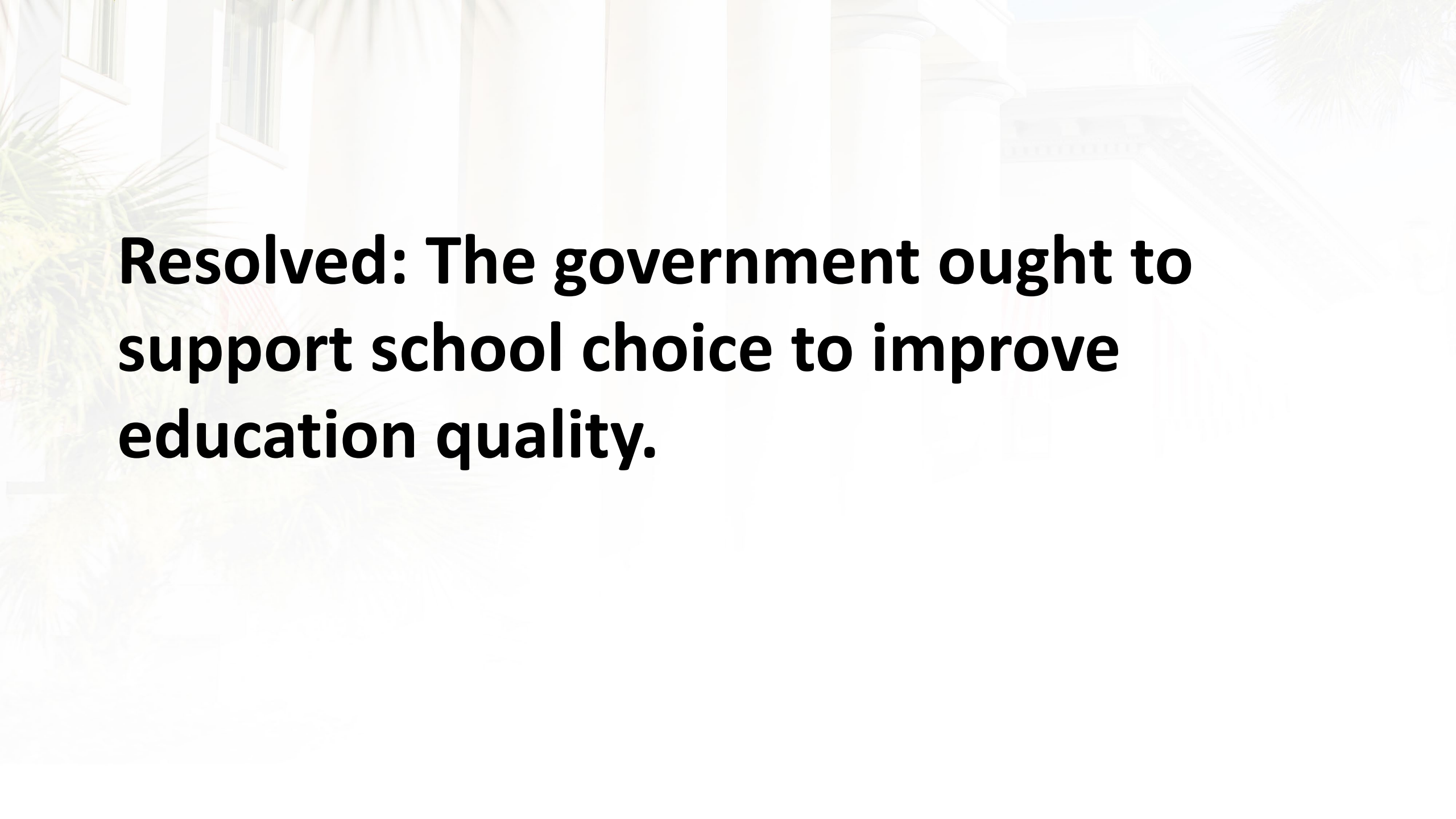


Q&A



SPEECH AND DEBATE
ACTIVITY





Resolved: The government ought to support school choice to improve education quality.

CONTACT THE TEAM

JOHN DUEBEL

DIRECTOR

FLORIDA CIVICS AND
DEBATE INITIATIVE

JOHN.DUEBEL1@FLDOE.ORG



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FLORIDA CIVICS &
DEBATE INITIATIVE
Building GREAT Citizens



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