

Focus Issue Application

Issue Title:

65-Cent Solution

Issue:

To provide students with a first class education by enacting legislation to require all public schools spend at least 65% of every K-12 education dollar on “classroom instruction” as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Name of Submitter:

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Submitter is a member of the Junior League of:

Boca Raton

Submitted to Taskforce:

Education and Children & Families

Submission Date:

08.09.08

Estimate the number of people affected by this issue in the state/nation/world:

Legislation is intended to impact the entire K-12 public education system and all the children enrolled in school. Enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year is not available at this time but please see attached report “Enrollment Size of Florida’s Public Schools” from the Florida Department of Education, May 2007.

Estimate the monetary impact in the stat/nation/world:

This proposal claims to add \$14 billion to K-12 classrooms nationwide and \$1 billion to K-12 classrooms in Florida without a tax increase (Hasner, 2005).

Describe the relative impact on the individual(s) affected by this issue:

The 65-Cent Solution claims increased funding for K-12 classrooms would lead to an improved education system in Florida and increased student performance.

List pros and cons:

Pros

- Increased funding for K-12 education leading to an improved education system.
- Potential increase in pay for teachers.
- A level measure of each school district's progress as related to student performance.

Cons

- Discrepancies in the true definition of "classroom instruction" have created confusion surrounding what will/should be funded. The 65-Cent Solution attempts to use the NCES definition, which includes: teachers, classroom supplies, special education and second language instruction, music and athletics. The National Education Association (NEA) finds this definition excludes instructional staff support including professional development, instruction and curriculum development and library and library and media services in addition to student support services such as counseling, school nurses, administration, food service, transportation and operations and maintenance (www.nea.org).
- S&P conducted an analysis that found no significant correlation between spending any minimum percentage on instruction and student achievement (www.nea.org).

List key public figures involved:

State Representative Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton

Cite all sources of information so that they may be crosschecked:

An Informative Guide to the 65-Cent Solution: State Representative Adam Hasner, R-Boca Raton.

"Enrollment Size of Florida's Public Schools," Florida Department of Education, May 2007.

First Class Education: www.firstclasseducation.org.

National Education Association: www.nea.org.

Describe why this issue is important to you?

N/A

List any additional documentation included or websites that include content that should be considered:

Please see sources listed above.