



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

NFHS Selects “Emerging Technologies” as 2022-23 National High School Policy Debate Topic

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: James Weaver

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 12, 2022) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has announced that “Emerging Technologies” will be the 2022-23 National High School Policy Debate Topic.

Emerging Technologies was the favorite in the final balloting process, receiving 30 of a possible 43 votes over “Global Climate Change,” the other topic finalist. In addition to the 39 state associations that took part in the vote, representatives from the National Speech and Debate Association, the National Catholic Forensic League, the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues and the National Debate Coaches Association also cast ballots.

“We are glad we had 43 states and national organizations take part in this important process for the second year in a row,” said Dr. James Weaver, NFHS director of performing arts and sports. “It is important for our membership to have their voices heard. Emerging Technologies and Global Climate Change are both excellent topics that deserve to be debated by some of the brightest youth in our country.”

The debate resolution is centered on both the emerging technologies around the world, as well as the growing global geo-political crisis surrounding it. The official resolution reads as follows: “The United States federal government should substantially increase its security cooperation with the North

Atlantic Treaty Organization in one or more of the following areas: artificial intelligence, biotechnology, cybersecurity.”

“Emerging Technologies is a very relevant and fascinating topic for students to debate,” Weaver said. “The 2022-23 resolution focuses on navigating a topic and resource that are just now becoming more obvious to the public.”

The final topic was decided using a three-phase voting process that began at the NFHS Policy Debate Topic Selection Meeting August 6-8. Forty-seven attending delegates from 19 states and multiple national organizations compiled five potential choices, which included “Global Health Security,” “Russia” and “Treaties” alongside the two finalists.

Those five options were then ranked in order of preference by the 43 organizations mentioned above, with the two lowest aggregate totals then advancing to the final vote. Using an additional stage of voting assures a majority of coaches across the nation favor the chosen topic area and resolution.

For more information on the 2022-23 national high school policy debate topic, including a visual breakdown of how each organization voted on the final ballot, please visit:

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/emerging-technologies-selected-as-2022-2023-national-policy-debate-topic/>.

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

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