

Power Beyond Washington

Trace how federal executive actions and regulations affect state governments.

CE.3.c “describing the roles and powers of the executive branch and regulatory boards as they affect states;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells what the executive branch or a regulatory body can do, circle every named federal agency, board, or commission, and write 1 beside each sentence that explains an effect on a state.

Federal Decisions, State Effects

- ① The executive branch carries out laws passed by Congress. The president leads this branch and appoints leaders of executive departments, although the Senate confirms many appointments. Departments such as Homeland Security, Transportation, and Education administer national programs. Their decisions can affect states when they award grants, enforce federal requirements, or provide emergency help. For example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, called FEMA, may send aid after a hurricane. A state can use that aid to support response and recovery, while following the program's rules.
- ② Regulatory boards and commissions use authority Congress gives them to create detailed rules and decide certain cases. The National Labor Relations Board, or NLRB, protects workers' rights to organize and addresses unfair labor practices. Its decisions can guide employers and workers in every state. The Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, sets national standards under environmental laws. State environmental agencies often write permits and inspect facilities to meet those standards. A state may choose stricter protections when federal law allows it, but it may not ignore a valid federal requirement.
- ③ Federal power has limits. Congress must give an agency legal authority, and courts can decide whether an executive action or regulation follows the Constitution and the law. States still govern many local matters, including running schools, conducting elections, and licensing many professions. Sometimes federal agencies work with state officials because states carry out parts of a national program. At other times, a federal rule prevents states from using conflicting rules. Knowing who made a decision, what power was used, and how a state responds helps citizens understand federalism.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two ways an executive department's decisions can affect a state?

2 How can a decision by the NLRB affect people in a state?

3 What may a state environmental agency do to meet EPA standards?

4 What two checks or limits on federal agency power are described in the passage?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about an imagined situation in which an executive department or agency takes an action and a regulatory board or agency makes a rule or decision. Explain one effect on a state and name one limit or check on the federal action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells what the executive branch or a regulatory body can do, circle every named federal agency, board, or commission, and write 1 beside each sentence that explains an effect on a state. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two ways an executive department's decisions can affect a state?	An executive department can award grants, enforce federal requirements, or provide emergency help.
2	How can a decision by the NLRB affect people in a state?	Its decisions can guide employers and workers in the state about workers' rights and unfair labor practices.
3	What may a state environmental agency do to meet EPA standards?	It may write permits and inspect facilities to meet the national standards.
4	What two checks or limits on federal agency power are described in the passage?	Congress must give an agency legal authority, and courts can decide whether an action or regulation follows the Constitution and the law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After a major flood, FEMA provides a state with aid that must be used for recovery work. The EPA requires the state's environmental agency to follow national water-quality standards when it issues cleanup permits. Congress gave the EPA authority under environmental laws, and a court can review whether the requirement follows the law.

Accept equivalent examples from the passage that accurately connect a federal executive action or regulatory decision to an effect on a state. For the open response, accept any realistic three-sentence scenario that includes both federal roles, a state effect, and a valid limit or check.