

STEM Education Coalition



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

September 2, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rush Holt
1214 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Representative Holt:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing to thank you for your support of a \$5 million increase in funding for the Department of Education's (DOE) Math and Science Partnership program (MSP). Our Coalition has been a longtime advocate for the expansion of the MSP program – an integral element of federal efforts to improve STEM education – toward the \$450 million level authorized for this program by the No Child Left Behind Act. Thanks to your hard work on this issue, the \$5 million increase in funding provided by the House, if adopted by Congress, would be the first funding increase for this critical program since 2006, bringing the investment in the MSP program to \$184 million per year.

The results of this program justify this increased investment. Seventy one percent of teachers participating in a MSP project who were assessed in mathematics showed significant gains in their content knowledge and 80 percent of teachers who were assessed in science showed significant gains in their content knowledge. These teachers improved their pedagogy and teaching strategies, provided a positive classroom culture, and increased relevance and rigor in their classroom instruction. According to the Department of Education, this led to an average 6 percent gain in students' mathematics proficiency from the previous year's assessment, and an average of a 7 percent gain in science proficiency from the previous assessment. This is twice the improvement rate of the national average.

The STEM Education Coalition is composed of a diverse range of organizations representing all sectors of the technological workforce—from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers and technicians. Our Coalition works to raise awareness in Congress and throughout the Executive Branch about the critical role that STEM education—both form and informal—plays in enabling the United States to remain the economic and technology leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century.

If we can provide you any additional information on STEM education, please do not hesitate to contact James Brown at 202-872-6229 or Jodi Peterson at 703-312-9214.

Sincerely,

Alabama Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education Coalition (AMSTEC)
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Institute of Biological Sciences
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
American Statistical Association
Arctic Research Consortium of the United States
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association for Computing Machinery
Association for Women in Science
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Association of Science Materials Centers
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce
Biotechnology Institute
BSCS
California Healthcare Institute
Carroll University
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness (CASMIC)
Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)
Center for Mathematics and Science Education Teaching and Technology at John
Central Career and Technical School, Erie, PA
College of Saint Elizabeth
Council on Undergraduate Research
CSTEM
Deer Valley Crossroads
East Coast National Science Decathlon
EAST Initiative
Ecological Society of America
Education Development Center, Inc.
Engineers Without Borders-USA
ETA/Cuisenaire
Exploratorium
Funutation Tekademy LLC
Georgian Court University
Hamilton County/Chattanooga Coalition for Mathematics and Science Excellence

IEEE-USA
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
In Reach, Inc.
International Technology Education Association
JETS
Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA)
Louisiana Association of Science Leaders (LASL)
Maryland Science Center
McGraw-Hill
Museum of Science, Boston
NASA STEM School Administrators Association
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity
National Center for Science Education
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT)
National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Education Association
National Girls Collaborative Project
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
North Carolina Mathematics Science Education Network Pre-College Program, Center for Mathematics & Science Education
Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition
Ontic Education, LLC
Pathways to Science
PBS
Platform Shoes Forum
Project Exploration
Project Tomorrow
SACNAS
Science Companion
Science Teachers Association of New York State (STANYS)
SPIE – The International Society for Optics and Photonics
STEMES
TechNet
Technology Student Association
Tennessee Science Teachers Association
University of Arkansas
University of Kentucky
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown
University of Southern Mississippi, Center for Science and Mathematics Education
Urban STEM Strategy Group
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Vernier Software & Technology