

STEM Education Coalition



March 27, 2008

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Enzi
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi:

As your committee works to reauthorize No Child Left Behind, the undersigned business, industry, science, and education groups listed below strongly urge you to make science a required component of the adequate yearly progress (AYP) measure under Title I.

The most recent 10-year employment projections by the U.S. Labor Department show that of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 of them require significant mathematics and science preparation. America's global competitiveness will increasingly depend on our ability to better educate our young people in the sciences, yet when compared with our international competitors, we are not performing well in science achievement.

Science should be included alongside math and reading as a required component of the AYP measure. Science is a core subject that all students should be learning and for which all schools should be held accountable. Further, if science is included in AYP, science tests would not have to be conducted annually, but could continue to be administered once in each grade band, as determined by the state.

Strengthening student achievement in math and science and attracting more students to pursue STEM degrees are major priorities of the 110th Congress. Including science in AYP would provide educators and administrators a valuable tool in determining and measuring the effectiveness of instruction that students are provided.

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

Sincerely,

AIAA-American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Association of Physicists in Medicine
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Chemical Society
American Physical Society
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.
ASME Center for Public Awareness
Association for Women in Science
Association of Science-Technology Centers
Business Higher Education Forum
Campaign for Environmental Literacy
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
EAST Initiative
Education Development Center, Inc.
Engineers Without Borders-USA
Exploratorium
Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Center Association
Hands On Science Partnership
Institute of Food Technologists
Knowledge Alliance
Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance
Maryland Science Center
Museum of Science, Boston
National Center for Optics and Photonics Education (OP-TEC)
National Center for Technological Literacy
National Center for Women & Information Technology
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Project Exploration
Project Lead the Way
SAE International
Science Companion
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Society of Women Engineers
SPIE – The International Society for Optics and Photonics
Tiffin Columbia High School