

STEM
EDUCATION
COALITION
Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



THE STEM EDUCATION COALITION

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition represents the broadest and most unified voice in advocating for policies to improve STEM education at all levels. It is a central mission of our Coalition to inform federal policymakers on STEM issues and serve as an advocate for the critical role that STEM education plays in U.S. competitiveness and future economic prosperity.

We believe that STEM education is closely linked with our nation's economic prosperity in the modern global economy; strong STEM skills are a central element of a well-rounded education and essential to effective citizenship. STEM education must be elevated as a national priority as reflected through education reforms, policies to drive innovation, and federal and state spending priorities. Our nation must expand the capacity and diversity of the STEM workforce pipeline to prepare more students for the best jobs of the future that will keep the U.S. innovative, secure and competitive.

2014 Milestones

- The Coalition's advocacy in support of the Department of Education's [Math and Science Partnerships](#) program led to a \$5 million increase in appropriations for this program to \$155 million in FY 2015, the first increase in more than 10 years.
- Our Coalition worked with the White House to re-tool a [planned reorganization of federal STEM education programs](#) across 13 different agencies, resulting in major changes in Administration's budget for FY 2016.
- The Coalition rallied the support of more than [40 major national organizations behind common state standards in math and science](#). Coalition members also helped [defeat a bill to repeal Common Core math standards in Ohio](#).
- The Coalition's [Policy Council](#) has grown to over 40 members and more than 600 organizations have become Affiliate members of the Coalition.

"Because improving U.S. STEM education is a long-term undertaking, our nation desperately needs a thorough and ongoing public debate on the best overall strategy. No one within our government or the education community is going to be able to develop or implement any kind of plan on their own. We have to work together across party and state lines, across disciplinary lines and across federal agency boundaries."

– Coalition Op-Ed "Maybe It's Not Rocket Science," Inside ALEC, January 2014

POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Our Coalition's Policy Council sets the policy agenda and overall objectives for the group and plays an active role in direct advocacy with policymakers. Council members support the organization through annual membership dues.



OUR WORK

A chronological summary of the Coalition's major activities



January 9, 2014: Coalition authors opinion piece addressed to state legislators entitled [“It’s Not Rocket Science”](#) for Inside ALEC on matching political rhetoric on STEM education with real action.

January 29, 2014: Coalition launches new interview series with key STEM education policymakers and stakeholders. The [first interview is with U.S. Rep. Richards Hanna \(R-NY\)](#), who co-chairs the House STEM Education Caucus.

January 29, 2014: Coalition [praises President Obama’s focus on STEM education](#) in the State of the Union address.

March 5, 2014: Coalition issues [statement highlighting policy changes by the Obama Administration](#) in its FY2015 Budget Proposal for STEM education programs.

March 10, 2014: Coalition members meet with White House officials from the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to discuss STEM education budget proposals.

March 31, 2014: Coalition [supports inclusion of STEM education provisions it helped author](#) in House Science Committee’s FIRST Act.

April 3, 2014: Coalition works with Sens. Merkley (D-OR) and Franken (D-MN) to promote a [“Dear Colleague” letter](#) in support of STEM priorities in the Department of Education’s budget request.

April 17, 2014: Coalition issues 2014 update to its [“Core Policy Principles”](#) with input from its 40-member Policy Council.

April 29, 2014: Coalition submits [written testimony on STEM education policy issues](#) for Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee hearing on U.S. innovation policy.

May 22, 2014: Coalition develops its first [public statement in support of common state standards in math and science](#).

May 29, 2014: Coalition Featured on [C-SPAN’s Morning Edition](#) to discuss White House Budget Priorities

June 5, 2014: Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds (R-IA) meets with Coalition members and [answers questions for the Coalition’s policymaker profile interview series](#).

June 20, 2014: Coalition works with Rep. Joe Garcia (D-FL) and the House Democratic Whip’s office to develop legislation to authorize one of the Obama Administration’s key STEM education priorities, the [STEM Innovation Networks Act](#).

June 25, 2014: After meeting with White House officials several times in 2015, the Coalition writes a [public letter to Presidential Science Advisor Dr. John Holdren](#) with detailed recommendations on the Administration’s STEM education policy agenda.

July, 14, 2014: The House [passes the STEM Education Act of 2014](#), a bill that would provide for an updated definition of STEM subjects and would help improve coordination of federal STEM education programs. The bill would implement several specific Coalition policy goals.

September 3rd: Coalition published a [feature interview](#) with American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education President and CEO Sharon Robinson.

September 17, 2014: The STEM Education Coalition’s Executive Director and its member Universal Technical Institute discuss [American workforce issues on Education Talk Radio](#).

November 4, 2014: The STEM Education Coalition’s Executive Director and its member and co-chair ASME, discuss the [state of play in engineering education on Education Talk Radio](#).

November 19, 2014: The Coalition works with the offices of [Reps. Kilmer \(D-WA\) and Bucshon \(R-IN\)](#) to encourage NSF-led efforts to support the development AP Engineering courses.



Coalition Meets with Iowa Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, Chair of the Iowa STEM Council

December 2, 2014: International Innovation magazine profiles the Coalition in an interview piece entitled [“A New Era in STEM Education.”](#)

December 4, 2014: Coalition leads an effort to garner the [support of more than 40 major professional organizations and other NGOs in support of common state standards](#) in math and science.

December 10, 2014: The Coalition and several of its members worked with the Ohio-based Higher State Standards Partnership and other Ohio stakeholders in [a successful effort to defeat legislation](#) that would repeal Ohio’s Common Core math standards.

December 12, 2014: Coalition issues [statement praising increased funding for Math and Science Partnership program](#) in final FY15 Spending Bill.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY INITIATIVES

Legislative and policy initiatives created, supported, and influenced by the Coalition



[FY 2015 Omnibus Appropriations Bill](#) (H.R. 83) – Final Appropriations Bill, Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Enacted into Law

- The Coalition worked with both House and Senate Appropriations Committee staff to support the inclusion of \$155 million in funding for the Math and Science Partnership program at the Dep. of Education, a \$5 million increase and the first new funding for this program in more than 10 years. The Coalition issued [a public statement of support](#) for this aspect of the bill and for its strong support of the NSF's education programs.

[America COMPETES Reauthorization Act](#) (S. 2757) – Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), Introduced in the Senate

- The Coalition developed a detailed set of recommendations to the early discussion draft of this bill and then worked with the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Majority staff in include several changes in the bill that was eventually introduced

[STEM Education Act](#) (H.R. 5013) – Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX), Passed by the House

- The Coalition worked with the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee Majority staff to develop this targeted bill to broaden the definition of STEM subjects to address related fields like computer science, expand programs at the National Science Foundation to support informal STEM education activities, and extend eligibility for the NSF’s Noyce Teacher Fellowship program to teacher pursuing master’s degrees in their fields. The Coalition [publicly supported the bill](#) during House floor debate.

[Innovative STEM Networks Act](#) (H.R. 4828) – Rep. Joe Garcia (D-FL), Introduced in the House

- The Coalition worked with Rep. Garcia’s office and the House Democratic Whip Staff to write this bill which would establish a new competitive grants program at Department of Education for states that form network-based partnerships between schools, universities, business, and community groups to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education. The Coalition also helped develop broad community support for proposal and [publicly supported the bill](#) on its introduction.

[Supporting Afterschool STEM Act](#) (S. 2543) – Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Introduced in the Senate

- The Coalition worked with Sen. Shaheen’s staff, the Afterschool Alliance, and others in the informal learning community to develop this legislation and build support for it from STEM education organizations. The Coalition [publicly supported the bill](#) on its introduction.

[Educating Tomorrow’s Engineers Act](#) (H.R. 1178) – Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), Introduced in the House

- The Coalition publicly supported this bill.

[Ohio H.B. 597](#) – Rep. Andy Thompson R-95th district), Introduced in the Ohio House

- The Coalition helped connect its members with supporters of the Ohio Common Core Mathematics standards who were actively opposing this legislation that would repeal those standards in Ohio.

MEDIA COVERAGE

A compilation of press coverage of the Coalition and its activities



[A New Era in STEM Education](#), International Innovation, December 2, 2014

[STEM 101: Intro to Tomorrow's Jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), November 14, 2014

[The State of Play in Engineering Education](#), EduTalk Radio, November 4, 2014

[UMB Launches Program to Cultivate Middle-Schoolers' Interest in Cancer Careers](#), Baltimore Sun, October 27, 2014

[STEM Ed Coalition & Universal Technical Institute Discuss American Workforce](#), EduTalk Radio, September 17, 2014

[Leaders Discuss STEM's Future at FedScoop's Tech Town Hall](#), FedScoop, September 9, 2014

[Humanities vs. STEM, Redux](#), Inside Higher Ed, August 18, 2014

[Bridging the STEM Summer Learning Gap](#), Cisco, August 12, 2014

[Getting a Science Degree Doesn't Guarantee a Science Career](#), Consumer Affairs, July 14, 2014

[STEM Education Coalition talks about Obama administration's push for STEM](#), C-SPAN, May 28, 2014

['Serious Thinking' Needed on STEM Programs, Congressional Staffers Say](#), US News & World Report, April 24, 2014

[3 Technologies Bolstering STEM Learning](#), Education Week, March 28, 2014

[Nation Falls Far Short on Educational Equity, Data Show](#), Education Week, March 24, 2014

[Disparities Persist in Access to Math and Science Courses, Federal Data Show](#), Education Week, March 24, 2014



STEM Education Coalition Featured on C-SPAN's Morning Edition

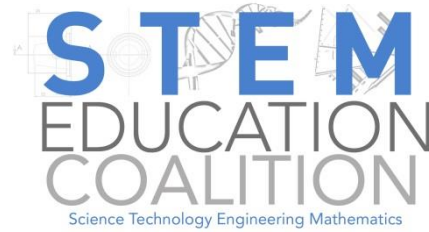
[STEM mentioned in every serious debate on education reform](#), News-Leader, March 18, 2014

["It's Not Rocket Science"](#), Inside ALEC, January 9, 2014

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