



2020 Federal Policy Goals

The STEM Education Coalition is an alliance of more than 800 education, business, and professional organizations nationwide that works to inform federal, state, and local decision makers about the critical role that science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education plays in enabling the American competitiveness in the global economy. Advancing STEM education must be a central element of a broad-based agenda to promote U.S. prosperity and innovation in an increasingly competitive, technology-driven world.

Our Coalition's Core Principles

- STEM education must be elevated as a national priority as reflected through education reforms, policies to drive innovation, and federal and state spending priorities.
- STEM education is closely linked with our nation's economic prosperity in the modern global economy and strong STEM skills are a central element of a well-rounded education.
- Our nation must expand the capacity and diversity of STEM workforce pathways to prepare more Americans – especially those from populations that are underrepresented in STEM fields – for the best jobs of the future that will keep the U.S. innovative, secure and competitive.
- Policymakers at every level must be informed about policy issues related to STEM education and their implications for the economy, national security, and continued American leadership in science and technology.
- Effective policies to promote STEM education as a national priority should be bipartisan and evidence-based and must be backed up by a strong and united community of stakeholders and advocates in the business, professional, research, and education communities.

Our Coalition's Federal Policy Goals for 2020

The central mission of the STEM Education Coalition is to inform policymakers on the critical role that STEM education plays in U.S. competitiveness and future economic prosperity and to advocate for policies that will improve STEM education at every level. Our federal policy goals for 2020:

Higher Education Reforms Must Bolster STEM Talent Pathways

As Congress deals with comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, such legislation must expand the capacity and diversity of STEM workforce pathways and provide more Americans with the supports they need to gain access to the best jobs of the future. We must also make sustained investments in preparing new teachers to be skilled in STEM pedagogical content knowledge so that they can generate strong student learning and excite students about pursuing STEM careers. Federal higher education policies must also support new and emerging education pathways into STEM careers beyond the traditional 4-year university experience.

Congress Must Prioritize STEM Funding

We urge Congress to prioritize funding for federal programs that are essential to student success in STEM subjects:

- We support the successful implementation of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) and its key STEM provisions:
 - *Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants* (ESSA Title IV.A), which is the major STEM funding source for states and districts under ESSA.
 - *Education Innovation and Research* program (ESSA Title IV.F), which has awarded more than half of its competitive grants in the past year to support STEM-related projects.
 - *Supporting Effective Instruction Grants* (ESSA Title II.A), which funds professional development for STEM educators.
 - *21st Century Community Learning Centers* (ESSA Title IV.B), which funds high-quality STEM programming in afterschool, summer, and other out-of-school learning programs.
- We support funding for *The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* (Perkins) which also has a significant STEM focus.
- We support the National Science Foundation's Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate. The EHR directorate plays a critical role in expanding the STEM education knowledge base for broadened participation, graduate and undergraduate innovation and

fellowships, enabling a skilled technical workforce, in-school and out-of-school education, and student experiences in STEM careers.

Competitiveness Legislation Must Include a Strong Focus on STEM Workforce

As Congress considers the reauthorization of the *America COMPETES* Act and its successor legislation to bolster U.S. competitiveness in science and technology by boosting investments in research and development, such proposals should include a strong and broad-based focus on improving the diversity and capacity of STEM workforce pathways, especially in new and emerging industries.

Ensure the White House, Administration Maintain a Strong Focus on STEM Education, STEM Jobs

In 2018, the Trump Administration published a 5-year strategic plan, [*Charting a Course for Success: America's Strategy for STEM Education*](#). This plan, which was developed with input from STEM stakeholders, proposed a wide range of policies to improve STEM education, bolster the competitiveness of the American workforce, and expand opportunities to empower all Americans with the skills to succeed in the modern global economy. The Administration must live up to the promise of these plans by reflecting STEM education goals in its future agency-by-agency budget proposals and implementation plans and by delivering on its commitments to establish STEM education as core priority at the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and throughout the mission agencies.

Infrastructure Plans Must Include Resources to Support STEM Education

Congressional plans to improve the nation's infrastructure must address STEM education-related needs, including laboratories and facilities in schools and other learning environments, digital resources to support modern learning, school equipment and instructional materials, and logistics and transportation to enable hands-on learning.