



March 1, 2023

Chair Rogers
Ranking Member Cartwright
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Chair Shaheen
Ranking Member Moran
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Chair Aderholt
Ranking Member DeLauro
House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education

Chair Baldwin
Ranking Member Capito
Senate Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education

Dear Appropriations Leaders:

As Congress works to set funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations, the STEM Education Coalition urges lawmakers to include priorities and investments that support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

The STEM Education Coalition is a diverse alliance of more than 900 education, business, and professional organizations with shared interests in STEM education. We believe that 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.

Too many schools have turned away from a strong focus on the STEM subjects. It is critical that the federal government promote applied STEM learning as a priority and empower state and local education leaders and their communities with the resources they need before a generation of students falls behind in the knowledge and skills that will support our recovery, achieve equity, and propel us forward.

Robust funding for the programs listed below will drive change by investing in high quality STEM teachers, improve instruction, broaden participation in the STEM fields, build effective STEM ecosystems, and strengthen research opportunities.

Department of Education

We support robust federal spending at the Department of Education, particularly in regards to the successful implementation of the federal education law (Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)) and these key science and STEM provisions:

- *Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants* (ESSA Title IV.A), is the largest source at ED for STEM programs and resources. Districts can use Title IV Part A grants to provide students with a well-rounded education and improve instruction and student engagement in applied STEM education. Science and STEM programs should be prioritized for Title IV funding and more examples of effective programs should be made available to districts.
- *Education Innovation and Research* program (ESSA Title IV.F), 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). Title II funds will be critical to STEM teacher professional development.
- *21st Century Community Learning Centers* (ESSA Title IV.B) funds high-quality STEM programming in afterschool and summer learning programs.
- *STEM Master Teacher Corps* (ESSA Section 2245) is a program that has potential to support our most talented STEM teachers but requires sufficient funds to launch and maintain the program.

CHIPS and Science Act of 2022/National Science Foundation

The CHIPS and Science Act represents a groundbreaking and bipartisan shift in U.S. policy toward a more innovative, better educated, and more competitive America. Our organizations urge you to provide robust funding for the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and for related STEM education programs authorized by this groundbreaking bipartisan legislation that will support vital teacher training and collaboration, improve STEM education in afterschool programs, and diversify STEM fields through higher education programs.

Specifically, we support funding for the following new programs authorized by the CHIPS and Science Act:

- The Scaling Innovations in PreK-12 STEM Education (Sec. 10395) within the EHR Directorate to support multidisciplinary research and translation Centers for Transformative Education Research and Translation to expand and grow effective innovations in STEM education.
- The Fostering STEM Research Diversity and Capacity Building Program (Sec. 10325 (b)). This program is an important way to recruit diverse students to STEM and build capacity at emerging research institutions.

- The Undergraduate Education research program to study current and future STEM workforce needs (Sec. 10312) and programs supporting graduate students (Sec. 10313) to encourage greater collaboration and coordination between institutions of higher education, including community colleges, and industry to enhance education, foster hands-on learning experiences, and improve alignment with workforce needs;
- The STEM Teacher Corps pilot program (Sec. 10311) to recognize outstanding STEM educators and raise the profile of teaching STEM as a career path for the next generation of teachers.
- The Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program (Section 10311) and Hands-On and Experiential Learning Opportunities Program to provide effective, compelling, and engaging means for teaching and reinforcing fundamental STEM concepts to PreK–12 students

Further, we strongly urge Congress to provide robust support for several aspects of the CHIPS and Science Act specifically designed to broaden participation in the STEM fields, including:

- Subtitle A: STEM Opportunities to empower Federal agencies and universities to identify and lower barriers to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women, minorities, veterans, and other groups underrepresented in STEM studies and careers and require agencies to collect comprehensive demographic data on the merit review process and on STEM faculty at U.S. universities.
- Subtitle B: Rural STEM Education Research to provide for research and development to increase access to STEM education opportunities in rural schools and to provide teachers with the resources they need to teach more effectively.
- Subtitle C: Minority-Serving Institutions STEM Achievement to direct Federal science agencies and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to undertake activities to broaden and improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education and enhance the research capacity within our Nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Minority Serving Institutions.
- Subtitle D: Combating Sexual Harassment in Science to establish a National Science Foundation program to award grants for research into the factors contributing to and the consequences of sexual harassment in the scientific workforce.

We support full funding of NSF STEM education programs at the authorized level of \$1.95 billion (Sec. 10303), which includes the following top-level programmatic investments:

- Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program to support STEM educators
- NSF Research Traineeship program for STEM students and future scholars
- Graduate Research Fellowship program for students earning advanced STEM degrees
- Education and Human Resources Directorate operations and award management to support established STEM programs in K-12, informal, and other education settings

- The Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program
- Hands-On and Experiential Learning Opportunities Program
- Office of the Inspector General to oversee effective STEM education investments

We believe that America's global competitiveness and national security depend on a strong STEM research enterprise and workforce, as well as a STEM literate populace. The federal government must work with state and local leaders so that our classrooms, students, teachers, communities and parents have adequate support and the necessary resources to ensure that every child has access to a quality K-16 STEM education.

Sincerely,

(Add Signature)

James Brown
Executive Director
STEM Education Coalition