



Congress Must Help Schools and Educators Navigating the Pandemic

June 15, 2020

Statement from NCTM President Trena Wilkerson

NCTM, its 40,000 members, and the 3.7 million educators in the country's public and private schools have been and will continue to struggle to educate the country's students as an historic pandemic closed schools and required new strategies for teaching and learning this spring and will impact education this fall. While NCTM is in the midst of providing [100 Days of Professional Learning](#) to support mathematics educators nationwide, we know that tough times are ahead for public schools. There will be shortfalls in state and local budgets that will adversely affect schools at the very time that they are relying on technology, innovation, and professional development for educators.

While Congress has invested \$30 billion in education to date, that amount falls far short of the amount that will be needed to both assist struggling states and support educators as they navigate a historic shift in education. The House of Representatives recently passed the Heroes Act. That bill would invest an additional \$100 billion in K-12 and higher education, and provide states additional funds that could be used for education. NCTM is hopeful that the Senate will support these proposals and acknowledge that investments in addressing the homework gap, technology, professional development, social and emotional learning, mental health supports, and programs and policies that ensure that the circumstances that already make it more difficult for the country's most vulnerable students to learn are not exacerbated by the effects of this insidious virus.

President Trump, Congress, governors, state legislators, and local leaders must support our education system in providing each and every student rigorous mathematics learning opportunities and applications to support and sustain the STEM workforce and an informed citizenry in our democracy.

NCTM asks Congress to deliver legislation that will mitigate—at least in part—the damaging cuts to K-12 education that are coming. Lawmakers must support the 1.5 million teachers of mathematics that are giving the country's young people of every color, gender, faith, and economic background the mathematics abilities they need to thrive. Especially now.