



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

August 4, 2017

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202  
*Transmitted via email to [EDReform@ed.gov](mailto:EDReform@ed.gov)*

Dear Secretary DeVos:

On behalf of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), I'm responding to the Department of Education's request for feedback on how the agency might best serve the needs of its stakeholders. As you know, President Trump has asked the executive branch to identify ways to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of government through [Executive Order 13781](#), which outlines a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch. NCTM appreciates the goal of this Order and the solicitation of feedback.

Founded in 1920, NCTM is the world's largest mathematics education organization, with 60,000 members and more than 230 Affiliates throughout the United States and Canada. NCTM supports and advocates for the highest-quality mathematics teaching and learning for each and every student. To that end, its members, including mathematics educators and those charged with preparing mathematics educators, rely on several Department of Education programs and efforts. Federal support for teacher preparation programs, professional development for classroom teachers, assistance for those studying mathematics education, and the research and other public resources that foster the improved teaching and learning of mathematics are invaluable to the field.

Given the importance of mathematics instruction, and the place of mathematics as the building block for STEM education, NCTM urges you to retain the agency's Office of STEM Education and its staff. The office has become important to NCTM and its members as a point of contact to discuss STEM education and its profile at the Department and within federal education programs. The information the office provides on STEM education programs is enormously helpful to the field, as is the ability to contact professionals who can help leaders at NCTM and similar organizations navigate federal programs and policies. It must be retained under your leadership.



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Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer this perspective. We look forward to working with you and your team at the Department and stand ready to help in any way we can.

If you or your team have any questions about our views on the importance of the Office of STEM Education, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact NCTM Executive Director Ken Krehbiel at [kkrehbiel@nctm.org](mailto:kkrehbiel@nctm.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Larson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Larson  
President