



June 20th, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1502

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
379A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-5004

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Enzi:

As members of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing you with our recommendations for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), otherwise known as the No Child Left Behind Act. We look forward to working closely with you and the members of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) as you reauthorize this critical law.

Our Coalition is a broad alliance of education, business, professional, and science and technology organizations working aggressively to raise awareness in Congress, the Administration, and other organizations about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 15 of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2014 require preparation in STEM subjects. If our nation is to keep up with our international peers, we absolutely must step up our efforts to improve STEM education.

Our Coalition includes a wide range of stakeholders who are deeply committed to ensuring that STEM education is a top priority in the revised ESEA. We urge you and your colleagues to strongly consider the following recommendations to improve the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We support:

- The inclusion of student performance in science alongside math and reading as a core element of the accountability system;
- Robust and dedicated programs to provide effective STEM-related professional development and preparation for educators and other educational innovation activities under Title II.B;
- Strengthening STEM-focused formula-funded programs that provide resources to each state for high-need students and areas, complemented with competitive grant programs in STEM education to promote ambitious reform efforts;

- Federal efforts to empower each state to develop its own comprehensive STEM education action plan – including its own definition of STEM needs – that will include input from a wide range of business, professional, and education stakeholders;
- The integration of STEM-focused curricula, projects, and programs as high-priority allowable uses of funds under other ESEA programs that support classroom and field teaching and learning as well as out of school experiences such as afterschool and summer programs;
- A strong emphasis in K-12 learning environments on hands-on, experiential, inquiry-based and learner-centered student experiences and activities, including engineering design processes and digital access for STEM students and educators to help foster 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills;
- Federal efforts to encourage and foster ongoing collaborative state efforts to adopt “common core” or other high-quality standards in math and science;
- Targeted efforts to promote STEM subject master teachers and teacher specialists; and
- Federal efforts to expand the diversity of the STEM pipeline and workforce, including targeted initiatives to promote the inclusion of underrepresented minorities and women in STEM fields.

Our Coalition values our relationship with you and your HELP Committee colleagues. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance as you advance the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Please contact James Brown, Executive Director of the Coalition at (202) 223-1887 or [jfbrown@stemedcoalition.org](mailto:jfbrown@stemedcoalition.org) with questions, comments, or for further information.

Respectfully,

*National Science Teachers Association  
American Chemical Society  
ASME  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Hands on Science Partnership  
Microsoft Corporation  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
Alliance for Science and Technology  
Research in America (ASTRA)  
American Society for Engineering Education*

*American Society of Civil Engineers  
Battelle  
Business-Higher Education Forum  
Campaign for Environment Literacy  
Committee for the Advancement of STEM  
Specialty Schools  
IEEE-USA  
Afterschool Alliance  
American Association of Colleges for  
Teacher Education (AACTE)*

3-D Community Services and Housing  
ACHIEVE3000  
American Association of Physics Teachers  
American Geophysical Union  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and  
Petroleum Engineers, Inc  
American Institute of Physics  
American Mathematical Association of Two-Year  
Colleges  
American Museum of Natural History  
American Nuclear Society  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Statistical Association  
Arkansas STEM Coalition  
Association of Science Materials Centers  
Association of Science-Technology Centers  
Automation Federation  
Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber  
Beaver County STEM Education Advocacy Coalition  
Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)  
C-54 Productions, LLC  
California Healthcare Institute  
Center for Excellence in Education (CEE)  
Center for STEM Education at the University of North  
Carolina  
Center for Teaching and Learning  
Council of State Science Supervisors  
Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics  
Education  
EAST Initiative  
Engineers Without Borders – USA  
Entertainment Industries Council, Inc.  
ETA/Cuisenaire  
Funutation Tekademy LLC  
Girls Inc.  
In Reach, Inc.  
Institute of Industrial Engineers  
International Technology and Engineering Educators  
Association (ITEEA)  
International Technology and Engineering Educators  
Association Council for Supervision and Leadership  
(ITEEA-CSL)  
Iowa Mathematics & Science Education Partnership  
KDSL-Know Do Serve Learn  
Knowledge Alliance  
Maryland Academy of Sciences at The Maryland  
Science Center  
McGraw-Hill Education  
Michigan Mathematics and Science Center Network  
Minnesota High Tech Association  
MITS, Inc  
Muses3, LLC  
National Association for Gifted Children  
National Center for Science Education  
National Commission on Teaching and America's  
Future

National Council for Advanced Manufacturing  
National Council of Structural Engineers Associations  
National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics  
National Defense Industrial Association  
National Institute of Building Sciences  
National Science Education Leadership Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
New York Hall of Science  
Northrop Grumman Corporation  
NV STEM Education Coalition  
Pathways into Science  
Payson Unified School District #10  
Project Exploration  
SACNAS  
School Management and Revitalize Training Group  
School Science and Mathematics Association (SSMA)  
Scientifically Connected Communities (SC2) at New  
Mexico State University  
SkillsNET Corporation  
South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics & Science  
SparkFun Electronics  
SPIE, the International Society for Optics and  
Photonics  
STEM Education Center, University of Minnesota  
Students 2 Science, Inc.  
Technology Student Association  
The 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education  
The American Institute of Aeronautics and  
Astronautics (AIAA)  
The AWE Project (Assessing Women and Men in  
Engineering)  
The Council of Presidential Awardees in Mathematics  
The Laboratory School for Science and Technology  
The National Society of Professional Engineers  
The Ohio Academy of Science  
The Optical Society  
Triangle Coalition  
Urban STEM Strategy Group  
Vernier Software & Technology  
Wings of Eagles Discover Center

STEM Education Coalition

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[www.stemedcoalition.org](http://www.stemedcoalition.org)