



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

October 4, 2012

ATTN: Supporting Effective Educator Development Comments
Office of Innovation and Improvement
US Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Room 4C131
Washington, DC 20202
Submitted electronically via regulations.gov

Dear Assistant Deputy Secretary Shelton:

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Definitions and Selection Criteria for the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) program, as outlined in the Federal Register Volume 77, Number 171, dated September 4, 2012, FR Doc No: 2012-21814 and Docket ID ED-2012-OII-0013.

Clearly, NCTM and its nearly 80,000 individual members are invested in the “M” in STEM, which is addressed in a new proposed priority for the SEED program. A strong pre-K-12 mathematics education for all students is increasingly important to our nation’s economic stability, future national security, and workforce productivity. An economically competitive society recognizes the importance of mathematics learning and depends on citizens who are mathematically literate. NCTM believes that teachers and what they do in the classroom are at the heart of making this vision a reality. NCTM supports investing in teachers at every stage of their development. As we review the proposed guidance regarding the SEED program, NCTM offers the following comments.

Proposed Priority 4: Promoting Science, Technology, Engineer, and Mathematics (STEM) Education

This proposed priority conveys an appropriate emphasis on supporting projects under the SEED program that improve professional development for STEM teachers and that increase the number of STEM teachers from traditionally underrepresented groups. NCTM supports this new priority and its response to the high demand for highly effective STEM teachers, particularly in high-need schools. We hope this priority can be extended to professional development efforts that prepare mathematics teachers to also be mathematics coaches serving K-8 schools. Coaches can be very effective in improving teaching and learning, particularly in low-performing schools and they are a crucial element of professional learning communities.



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We hope that you will consider these views as your work develops further. Thank you for the time and effort you and your staff are investing in improving teacher professional development and recruitment and STEM education. As this process moves forward, if you have any questions or if the Council can provide you with any additional information, please contact NCTM Associate Executive Director for Communications Ken Krehbiel at (703) 620-9840, ext.2102.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda M. Gojak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "L".

Linda M. Gojak
President