



Statement of STEM Education Coalition Core Policy Principles 2011

On NCLB/ESEA Reauthorization:

The Coalition supports:

- Inclusion of student performance in science alongside math and reading as a required element of the accountability system.
- Federal support for ongoing collaborative state efforts to adopt “common core” or other high-quality standards in math and science.
- Robust dedicated support for effective Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educator professional development and preparation and educational innovation activities under Title II.
- Integration of STEM-focused curriculum, projects, and programs as priority investments for ESEA programs that support classroom teaching and learning as well as out of school experiences such as afterschool and summer programs.
- Targeted efforts to promote STEM subject master teachers and teacher specialists.
- Competitive grant programs to promote more aggressive state adoption and expansion of high-quality, rigorous STEM programs, so long as such efforts do not compromise existing formula-funding streams that also support high-quality STEM activities.

On Federal Appropriations for STEM Programs:

The Coalition supports:

- Comprehensive efforts to coordinate, evaluate, and review all federal STEM programs on a regular basis to ensure that effective programs are scaled up and that underperforming programs are improved or eliminated.
- Higher prioritization for funding of STEM-focused programs at the Department of Education.
- Full funding of the NSF’s Education and Human Resources Directorate as authorized by Congress, including research and development programs in STEM teaching and learning in a variety of settings.
- High-quality programs conducted by other science and technology mission agencies that have positive impact on student achievement in STEM subjects and other educational outcomes.

On Broader STEM Policies:

The Coalition supports:

- An inclusive definition of the term “STEM” education by federal programs that is not limited to math and science, but embraces each STEM discipline and its unique needs.
- 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.
- A strong emphasis in learning environments on hands-on, experiential, inquiry-based and learner-centered student experiences and activities, including engineering design processes.
- Incentives to promote business community engagement in STEM education activities at every level, including tax incentives for donations of equipment, training and services, and access to facilities.
- Integration of STEM-focused activities in federal programs directed at learning environments outside the K-12 classroom, such as afterschool and summer community-based programs, universities and other higher education entities, community colleges, and workforce and job training programs.