

April 14, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee prepares to advance legislation to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) later this month, our organizations welcome the opportunity to offer our recommendations on several critical policy matters. We are a broad alliance of education, business, and professional organizations that is strongly committed to the goal of elevating the education of all students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) subjects as a national priority as reflected through education reforms, policies to drive innovation, and federal and state spending priorities.

In today's economy, strong STEM skills are a central element of a well-rounded education and every student needs to have a strong foundation in these subjects in order to land and succeed in virtually any job – from the shop floor to the research lab to the board room. Further, the best, most highly paying jobs are nearly all in the STEM fields. As you revise ESEA, we hope you will set a high bar for our nation's schools in preparing students for the challenges of today's increasingly competitive world.

We urge you to incorporate two fundamental concepts into your reauthorization proposals:

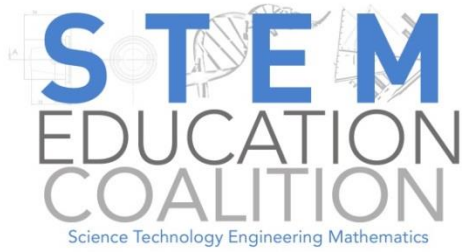
First, the accountability framework of ESEA should include a requirement that states continue to assess student performance in mathematics and science and that states be required to adopt rigorous standards in these subjects that are aligned to college and career readiness. While we recognize that one of the goals of a reauthorization will be to provide states with greater flexibility on many levels, we also consider it a fundamental federal responsibility to ensure that we are accurately measuring and monitoring student learning for all students in the subjects that are essential to their success.

Second, we strongly urge you to give high priority to funding for STEM education-related activities in elementary and secondary school teacher quality, recruitment, retention, and professional development programs administered through the U.S. Department of Education (DoEd). We have long supported the DoEd Math and Science Partnership Program (Title II.B in current law), which provides the sole source of dedicated funding at DoED to support professional development activities for STEM educators in every state and has shown excellent results in independent evaluations.

If we are going to enable our students to compete in the global economy we must maintain a strong federal commitment to improve teaching and learning in the critical STEM fields. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that STEM education is a national priority – as Congress has repeatedly agreed it should be.

Respectfully,

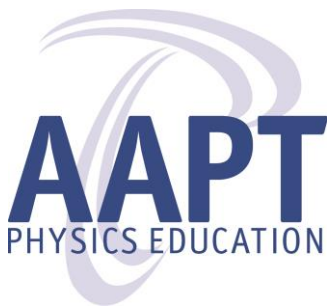
STEM Education Coalition	AZ ASCD	National Association of Biology Teachers
American Chemical Society	AzTEA Arizona Education Technology and Education Association	National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)
American Society for Engineering Education	Beard Boy Productions	National Center of Technological Literacy
American Society of Civil Engineers	Bikers for Bots	National Council for Advanced Manufacturing
ASME	The Boeing Company	National Education Association
Campaign for Environmental Literacy	Bose McKinney & Evans LLP	National Institute of Building Sciences
Education Development Center	California Science Teachers Association	National Science Education Leadership Association
Hands on Science Partnership	California STEM Learning Network	Nevada School of Professional Studies
IEEE-USA	Computing Research Association	NY Sun Works
McREL International	Deblar & Associates, Inc	Oracle
Measured Progress	El Reno (OK) Public Schools	Path 4 NC Kids
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics	Flight Science Aero Laboratories	Samueli Foundation
National Science Teachers Association	HASTI the Hoosiers Association of Science Teachers, Inc	Science Explorers
Abercrombie Academy	HMC Architects	Science Teachers of Missouri
Addictive Science	HUNSTEM (Houston Urban Network for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	SpiritED
Aeronautical Repair Station Association	IEEE-USA	STEM Fuse
American Association of Physics Teachers	iMAGINE Upstate	STEMfinity
American Association of University Women (AAUW)	In Reach, Inc	Teach For America
American Astronomical Society	International Technology and Engineering Educators Association	TechsCool
American Career College	Kendall Hunt Publishing	Tennessee Junior Academy of Science
American Geophysical Union	Kentucky Science Teachers Association (KSTA)	Triangle Coalition for STEM Education
American Institute of Physics	Latinos in Tech Innovation and Social Media (LATISM)	Tuskegee University
American Physical Society	League of United Latin American Citizens	Universal Collaborations
Arizona Science Teachers Association	Learn to Discover	Upstate SC STEM Collaborative
Arkansas Science Teachers Association (ASTA)	LearnOnLine, Inc	Utica College
Associated Equipment Distributors	Louisiana Association of Science Leaders	Vital Link
Association of Science-Technology Centers	Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA)	Washington STEM
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America	Magnet Schools of America	Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
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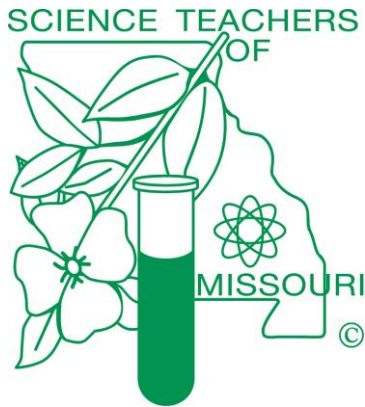
National Institute of  
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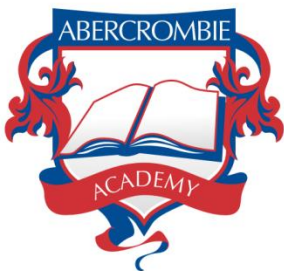
Computing Research  
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**Kendall Hunt**



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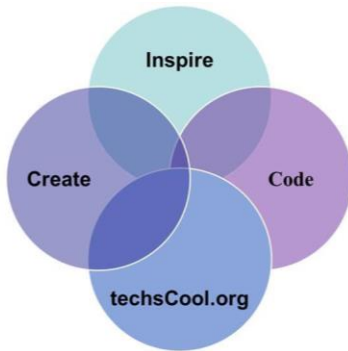




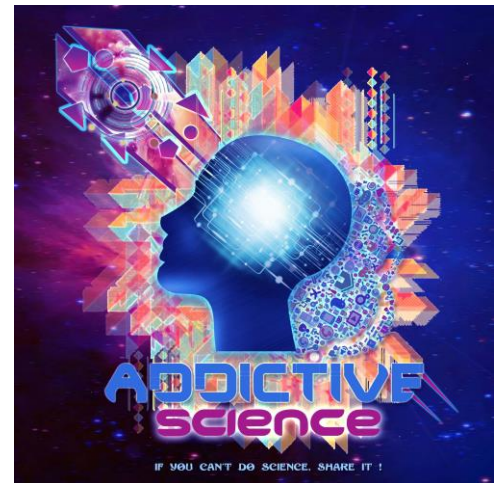
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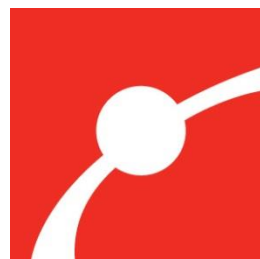
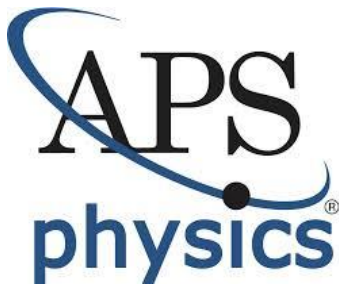
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