

K-12 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS EDUCATION COALITION

Acoustical Society of America

AeA

American Association of Engineering Societies

American Association of Physicists in Medicine

American Association of Physics Teachers

American Astronomical Society

American Chemical Society

American Geological Institute

American Geophysical Union

American Institute of Physics

American Mathematical Society

American Physical Society

American Society of Civil Engineers

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

Applied Materials, Inc.

*Arizona Alliance for Mathematics, Science, and
Technology Education*

*Association of State Supervisors of
Mathematics*

*Center for Chemistry Education, Miami
University*

CompTIA's

Council of State Science Supervisors

CPO Science

Cree

*Delaware Foundation for Science and
Mathematics Education*

Delta Education, L.L.C.

Ecological Society of America

Educators Publishing Service

EFJ, Inc.

Future Scientists and Engineers of America

Hewlett-Packard

IEEE-USA

Information Technology Association of America

International Technology Education Association

Museum of Science, Boston

National Association of Manufacturers

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

National Science Teachers Association

National Society of Professional Engineers

Ohio Academy of Science

Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Optical Society of America

SAE International

School Science and Mathematics Association

Science Education Foundation of Indiana, Inc.

SciMathMN

Semiconductor Industry Association

Society of Women Engineers

*South Arkansas Mathematics/Science Center
at Henderson State University*

State Supervisors for Technology Education

StorageTek

Technology Students Association

Texas Instruments

The Business Roundtable

*Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology
Education*

Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition

August 29, 2003

The Honorable Arlen Specter
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We urge you to support the House request for \$150 million in the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriation for the Department of Education's Math & Science Partnership program, which is the sole source of dedicated formula funding for all states to improve K-12 math and science education. This increase will provide continuity to existing partnerships and allow new partnerships to form. Each state will have greater resources to fund merit-based partnerships that improve teacher quality and student achievement in K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Improving the math and science skills of our students is essential to maintaining our technological leadership in our global economy. Demand for scientists and engineers will grow as the economy expands and as the current population of baby-boomers reaches retirement age. The need for a technologically literate population is essential for our economy and our national security.

Although there has been a steady improvement in the performance of America's students over the last ten years, a decreasing number of American students are pursuing college degrees in STEM fields. In spite of this progress, America's K-12 students still score below the best in the world on international tests.

The Math & Science Partnership program brings all stakeholders together to improve teacher quality and student achievement. We urge you to support to the House request of \$150 million so every state can continue to foster success in this area. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Burgio Curtis at 202.785.7385 or Heather Hill at 202.872.4467.

NOTE: Of the proposed \$150 million, Pennsylvania will receive an estimated \$4.6 million in funding for math and science education.