



September 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations
Committee

Dear Chair Collins, Ranking Member Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to advancing STEM education, research, and workforce development across the nation, we write to thank you for your bipartisan efforts to support federal investments in education and STEM through the FY 2026 appropriations process.

We especially commend the Senate Appropriations Committee for acting in bipartisan fashion to reflect the recommendations of a wide range of stakeholders by sustaining critical investments in education and STEM that directly benefit students, educators, and communities nationwide. These investments are essential to America's long-term competitiveness, economic vitality, and national security.

We Support These Senate Actions:

- **Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants:** We support the Senate's decision to fund this flexible program at **\$1.38 billion**, sustaining vital resources for STEM coursework, technology, and well-rounded education.
- **21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV-B):** We support the Senate's continuation of **\$1.329 billion** to sustain afterschool and summer learning programs that expand access to STEM learning opportunities.
- **Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction:** We support the Senate's decision to reject elimination and continue support for this vital **\$2.2 billion** program that enables districts to provide high-quality professional development for teachers, including STEM educators.
- **Teacher Quality Partnership Grants:** We support the Senate's decision to fund this competitive grant program and seek restoration to at least the FY25 funding level of **\$70 million** and note that this program can be used to enhance teacher training on the use of AI in education as envisioned in the "Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth" Executive Order.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** We support the Senate's funding of **\$1.45 billion**, which maintains strong pathways into the STEM workforce.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** We support the Senate's provision of **\$9.0 billion** overall, sustaining research at FY 2025 levels, significantly increasing the **MREFC account to**

\$350 million, and preserving the **STEM Education Directorate at \$1.0 billion**, ensuring continued investments in the STEM teacher pipeline, Noyce scholarships, and informal STEM learning.

We Support These Areas of House–Senate Agreement:

We support the bipartisan agreement between the House and Senate to:

- **Maintain Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants at \$1.38 billion**, rejecting the Administration’s proposal to eliminate and consolidate this program.
- **Preserve Title IV-B 21st Century Community Learning Centers at \$1.329 billion**, ensuring afterschool and summer learning programs continue nationwide.
- **Sustain Impact Aid and Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)**, protecting lifelines for rural and underserved school districts.
- **Protect Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant**, where both chambers rejected deep cuts proposed by the Administration.

These areas of bicameral agreement reflect a shared recognition of the importance of sustaining STEM education programs that directly serve students in every community.

We Urge Further Action to Preserve NSF’s STEM Education Leadership Role

As the FY 2026 appropriations process moves forward, we strongly urge Congress to build on the Senate’s constructive language supporting broadening participation, hands-on learning, and informal STEM education, reject the harmful reductions proposed in the House bills, and include the following provision in the base text of any final FY 2026 spending legislation to prohibit unilateral reorganization and redirection of appropriated funds for the National Science Foundation’s STEM Directorate:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON CLOSURE OR FUNDING REDIRECTION OF THE STEM EDUCATION DIRECTORATE.

*(a) **Prohibition on Reorganization of EDU Directorate.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, may be used by the National Science Foundation to eliminate, consolidate, transfer, or otherwise reorganize the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) at the National Science Foundation, or to reduce the responsibilities or authorities of such Directorate.*

*(b) **Prohibition on Fund Redirection.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act, or any other Act, may be used to transfer, reprogram, or redirect funds appropriated for the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) to any other directorate, program, or activity within the National Science Foundation or any other Federal agency.*

We appreciate the opportunity to share our views and look forward to working with you and your staff closely during this appropriations process.

Respectfully,

STEM Education Coalition
Aviation Technician Education Council
National Math and Science Initiative
DiscoverE
NAF (National Academy Foundation)
Education Development Center
Society of Women Engineers
Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC)
AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education)
TIES Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM
American Chemical Society
Afterschool Alliance
Mathematical Association of America
Student Association for STEM Advocacy
The UTeach Institute
American Mathematical Society
National Consortium of STEM Schools
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Girlstart
Afterschool STEM Hub
STEM Next Opportunity Fund
Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications
Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers
Hands on Science Partnership