

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Biden Jr.  
President  
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of our broad community of organizations united in the goal of advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, we are writing to urge you to use your White House “bully pulpit” to the maximum extent possible to highlight the critical role that learning in the STEM subjects plays in advancing our country’s technological leadership and economic future.

We applaud your Administration for making investments in education a central element of the Build It Back Better agenda to promote U.S. prosperity and innovation in an increasingly competitive, technology-driven world. Over the course of the past year, enormous, longstanding gaps in educational attainment and equity and have become visible and been exacerbated by our response to COVID and its impacts on the education system, especially for our youngest and most high-need students. Reopening our schools safely must be a priority to get the country back on its feet and headed towards a future where every child will have a chance to learn the skills they need to succeed in the evolving modern world – which are overwhelmingly in the STEM fields.

Excellence in STEM should be embraced as a bedrock element in conquering the challenges of today and tomorrow, including protecting human health, modernizing our infrastructure, harnessing the data revolution, digital skills, and computer science, protecting our environment and fostering equity for those who have been underserved by our communities. American recovery from COVID and its economic disruptions demands having a world-class and equitable education system that broadens authentic participation in STEM to all communities of learners and enables them to compete successfully for the best jobs of the future

Your personal leadership is an essential element in sending our students and teachers the message that excellence in the STEM subjects is a crucial national priority and is accessible to all. To this end, we would encourage you to:

- Re-launch the White House Science and Engineering Fair and other similar events such as Maker Faires, Hour of Code, Future City Competition, and Astronomy Night;
- Recognize Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching winners and other teaching and student leadership awards at the White House;
- Personally visit science and technology agencies and facilities across the federal government and public schools with excellent STEM programs, especially those in underserved communities;
- Attend a space launch;
- Elevate and praise the winners of national competitive STEM team events such as robotics competitions, Science Olympiads, transportation technology, building design, and other similar teamwork events in the same manner as the winners of the Super Bowl and World Series.

Whether virtual or in-person once conditions permit, these types of events – and the President’s personal presence at them – send a huge signal about the United States’ commitment to the importance of science, technology, engineering and math and the importance these subjects – and equity and diversity within these fields – to our future.

Unfortunately, during the COVID pandemic, far too many schools have turned away from a strong focus on the STEM subjects as they have struggled to maintain their operations with insufficient federal support. This shift has happened even more acutely at the PK-5 level, where there hasn't been a sufficient STEM emphasis for many years.

We need to reverse this trend before a generation of students falls behind in the knowledge and skills they will need to support our recovery, achieve equity, and propel us forward. Your personal and visible leadership in elevating the profile of education in the critical STEM subjects will have a meaningful impact toward this goal, as will prioritizing funding for federal programs that are essential to student success in STEM subjects in your first budget.

Respectfully,

STEM Education Coalition  
National Science Teaching Association  
Universal Technical Institute  
American Chemical Society  
Hands on Science Partnership  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers  
American Society for Engineering Education  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools

Microsoft  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
North American Association for Environmental Education  
Afterschool Alliance  
Society of Women Engineers  
Battelle  
STEMx  
Education Development Center  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Association of Science Technology Centers

National Society of Black Engineers  
FIRST®  
IBM  
Qualcomm Incorporated  
National Science Education Leadership Association  
Council of State Science Supervisors  
New York Hall of Science  
100Kin10  
North Carolina State University  
Vernier Software & Technology

STEM Next Opportunity Fund  
CompTIA  
Texas Tech University  
Girls Inc.  
Delaware State University  
ITEEA - International Technology and Engineering Educators Association  
ASME  
National Center for Women & Information Technology  
American Modeling Teachers Association  
National Association of Secondary School Principals

American Council of Engineering Companies  
AGU  
National STEM Honor Society  
SAE International  
American Mathematical Society  
STEMPilot  
Center for STEM Education, University of NC at Charlotte  
Mentoring Youth Through Technology  
Destination Imagination, Inc.  
NEPA STEM Ecosystem of Pennsylvania

Youth Science Center  
Defined Learning  
The Goddard School  
Thinking Media - Learning Blade  
Start Engineering  
Philadelphia Education Fund  
Philadelphia STEM Ecosystem  
Pennsylvania Statewide STEM Ecosystem  
Apast  
The Academy of Science - St. Louis

Building STEAM Bridges / STEAM 4 Parents  
ENGINE of Central PA STEM Learning Ecosystem  
Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University  
Texas Girls Collaborative Project  
Rent-A-Theme Entertainment  
Visions Academy  
Stemnastics LLC  
Bytes For Bits  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Inglewood Graduate Chapter (Phi Beta Beta)  
SOSSI- Saving Our Sons & Sisters International

Philadelphia Regional Institute for STEM Educators  
Minnesota Science Teachers Association  
Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association  
Minnesota Academy of Science  
Rural Activation Innovation Network - RAIN  
Bisbee Science Lab  
Arizona Computer Science for All  
Botanical Society of America  
Vermont Afterschool  
Wisconsin Afterschool Network

ProjectEngin LLC  
Challenger K8 School  
Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Beyond School Bells  
Hoover City Schools  
Hughes STEM High School  
Edventure More (EDMO®)  
VisualRealization.com  
IEEE/CAP  
Center for STEM Education, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

South Shade Crest Elementary School  
21st Century Energy  
ITEEA-International Technology and Engineering Educators Association  
Avila Media NFP  
Sci Math Mn  
Deer Valley Elementary School, Hoover, AL  
Northern Tier Counseling Inc  
STEM Learning Design, LLC  
AIMS Center for Math and Science Education  
Ohio Technology and Engineering Educators Association  
Avila Media NFP  
Pinnacle Academy  
The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art & Technology  
North Dakota STEM Ecosystem  
Gateway to Science Center Inc.  
Greater Oregon STEM Hub