

# STEM Education Coalition



June 28, 2007

The Honorable George Miller  
Chairman  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2205 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Education and Labor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller and Ranking Member McKeon:

On behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition, we are writing to express our support for amending the No Child Left Behind Act to require that the results from state science assessments be included in Adequate Yearly Progress.

Further, if science is included in AYP, science tests would not have to be conducted annually, but could continue to be administered once in each grade band, as determined by the state. This would be less burdensome on the state and local districts and still provide an adequate indicator of science achievement.

Strengthening student achievement in math and science and attracting more students to pursue STEM degrees are major priorities of the 110th Congress. Including science in AYP would provide educators and administrators a valuable tool in determining and measuring the effectiveness of instruction that students are provided.

Given the nature of science instruction, we also urge you to consider language that would encourage states to adopt flexibility in how to assess student performance, skill, and knowledge in the sciences. These include written assessments, performance based testing, project-based work, and portfolio projects.

The STEM Education Coalition comprises a diverse range of organizations representing all sectors of the technological workforce – from knowledge workers, to educators and education researchers, to scientists, engineers, and technicians. Our Coalition works to raise awareness in Congress and throughout the Executive Branch about the critical role that STEM education plays in enabling the U.S. to remain the economic and technological leader of the global marketplace of the 21st century.

If we can provide you any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jodi Peterson of NSTA at 703-312-9214 or James Brown of ACS at 202-872-6229.

Sincerely

Acoustical Society of America  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American Association of University Women  
American Chemical Society  
American Geological Institute  
American Institute of Physics  
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers  
AVS: Science and Technology of Materials, Interfaces, and Processing  
Business Higher Education Forum  
Campaign for Environmental Literacy  
Chicago Educational Publishing  
Design Science  
Education Development Center, Inc.  
Exploratorium  
Hands-On Science Partnership  
Institute of Food Technologists  
International Technology Education Association  
Knowledge Alliance (formerly NEKIA)  
Museum of Science, Boston  
National Center for Technological Literacy  
National Center for Women & Information Technology  
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics  
National Science Teachers Association  
SAE International  
STEM Education Society