



POSITION STATEMENT

IMPROVING PRE-COLLEGE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

*Adopted by the IEEE-USA
Board of Directors, 13 Feb. 2009*

IEEE-USA believes that a scientifically and technologically literate work force is necessary if the United States is to advance technologically and retain its leadership in scientific research and development. Improvements in precollege science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education are essential to America's standard of living, quality of life, and long-term economic and technological competitiveness.

Because America's education system is multi-dimensional, IEEE-USA urges legislators and education officials at the federal, state and local levels to work collaboratively with engineering and scientific societies, businesses, educational institutions, and other stakeholders in support of a national goal of scientific and technological literacy for all. To that end, IEEE-USA supports the educational recommendations of the National Academy of Engineering in its report on [*The Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter, Economic Future*](#), with specific emphasis on programs targeted at:

- Improving the nation's education system from preschool through graduate school and beyond, with special emphasis on strengthening STEM-related skills in grades K-12
- Providing early recognition and support for students with special interests and aptitudes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines
- Increasing incentives for individuals to pursue post-secondary education and professional careers in STEM fields.

IEEE-USA also supports federal legislation designed to improve coordination of K-12 STEM educational programs administered by Federal agencies and by states and local school systems, and to broaden the dissemination of information about effective K-12 educational practices.

This statement was developed by the IEEE-USA Career and Workforce Policy Committee and represents the considered judgment of a group of U.S. IEEE members with expertise in the subject field. IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public-policy interests of more than 215,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE. The positions taken by IEEE-USA do not necessarily reflect the views of the IEEE or its other organizational units.