

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

Acoustical Society of America
American Association of Engineering Societies
American Astronomical Society
American Association of Physics Teachers
American Chemical Society
American Geological Institute
American Helicopter Association, International
American Institute of Physics
American Physical Society
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Society of Mechanical Engineers
Arizona Alliance for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education
Boston Museum of Science
Center for Chemistry Education, Miami University
Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons
Ecological Society of America
Environmental Literacy Council
IEEE-USA
Intel Corporation
Louisiana State University, College of Education, College of Basic Sciences, College of Arts
MATH Connections
National Association of Biology Teachers
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
National Energy Foundation
National Science Teachers Association
National Society of Professional Engineers
Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE International)
School Science and Mathematics Association
SciMathMN
Society of Fire Protection Engineers
Society of Women Engineers
Tennessee Technology University, College of Engineering
Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education

January 31, 2003

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

VIA FAX: 202.228.1229; 202.224.1360

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We urge you to support the House request for \$100 million for the Department of Education's Math & Science Partnership program in the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriation. This necessary increase to Title II, Part B of No Child Left Behind will allow every state to develop merit-based partnerships to improve teacher quality and student achievement in K-12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

During the next decade, the U.S. demand for scientists and engineers is expected to increase at more than double the rate for all other occupations, according to the National Science Board.* The need for a scientifically literate population is essential for our economy and our national security.

If the conference committee agrees to \$100 million for this program, every state will receive an allotment of funding dedicated solely for math and science education programs. If the conference committee accepts an amount less than \$100 million, the money will not go to the states for state-level math and science programs; instead, the funds will be administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

Pennsylvania will get an estimated \$3.9 million in funding for math and science education, if the Math and Science Partnership program is funded at \$100 million.

The Math & Science Partnership program will bring all stakeholders together to improve teacher quality and student achievement. We urge you to support to the House request of \$100 million so every state can begin this important work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Burgio at 202.785.7385.

* National Science Board, Science & Engineering Indicators – 2002.