

State Mathematics and Science Summits: A Concept Paper
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The Idea

The proposed state* science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education summits build on the work started by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Secretary's Mathematics and Science Initiative (MSI) through meetings such as the Science Summit of March 2004, and its predecessor, the Mathematics Summit of February 2003. These summits offer a model to states that may be interested in planning and holding their own summits to convene a broad and representative group of stakeholders in education, business, and state government.

Specific state summit goals are to:

- Address pressing state level concerns and catalyze new programs, collaborations, and reforms in K-12 STEM education.
- Take the message promoted by the MSI to the state level, with a particular focus on improving teacher quality in STEM courses.
- Address issues in technology literacy, especially for teachers, administrators and others in education.
- Foster a grassroots dialogue to address the need for better research into effective instruction in STEM education.
- Increase public awareness among our nation's citizens about the importance of STEM education.
- Focus on the needs of communities in improving STEM education.

While each of the state summits will have an agenda focusing on the needs of the communities where they are being held, the MSI national agenda will provide guidance to summit planners.

How the Summits Will Work

As a mechanism for coordination of the state summits, NASSMC proposes to use its national network of state science and mathematics coalitions to coordinate, support, and develop state and regional events. In those states where no coalition now exists, NASSMC will support and assist the establishment of such an organization or will work with existing organizations involving key state leadership in business, education and policy.

In cooperation with MSI, NASSMC will issue an Announcement of Opportunity, which will be open to all states on a first come, first served basis. Participation requirements include:

- Commitment to develop a long-term action plan to improve STEM education for all students.
- Identified a single state organization as the fiscal agent.
- Presentation of a budget with some narrative explanation, draft agenda outline for the meeting and a statement of goals.
- Address how STEM reform efforts relate to the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Address how the state proposes to improve teacher quality and technology literacy through the Mathematics and Science Partnerships (MSP) and other federal offerings to the states.
- Local financial and/or in-kind support.
- All administrative costs and meeting expenses must be clearly described in the budget.
- Encouragement of broad-based participation representing leaders in education, business, state government and parent organizations.
- Encouragement of participation by chief state school officers, by state science, mathematics, and technology supervisors, and by the states' MSP community.
- A media strategy, a strong public engagement component, reporting, and a follow-up plan.

*For purposes of this document "states" refers to states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories.

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To assist respondents, possible agenda formats based on current planning in Massachusetts, Florida and other states-as well as the MSI Summits-will be offered. NASSMC-generated documents based on the organization's proven process for conducting in-state meetings would be provided. These documents may offer general guidelines, timelines, and meeting planning checklists to assist summit organizers.

Summit Partners

A team of MSI members is currently engaged in recruiting interested parties to plan and execute these summits. Those parties include ED, the National Alliance of State Science and Mathematics Coalitions (NASSMC), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) regional offices, and various federal agencies, academic institutions, private corporations and other interested groups.

NASSMC has a national network of state science and mathematics coalitions to coordinate, support, and develop state and regional events. NASSMC member coalitions are broad-based organizations composed of top business, education, and public policy leadership in the states. These organizations represent the consensus of those communities and are involved in a wide variety of reform efforts in STEM education.

The following URLs represent information about interested parties:

- ED MSI: www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/progs/mathscience/index.html
- NASSMC: www.nassmc.org/
- NASA Education: education.nasa.gov/home/index.html
- NAE Program on Technology Literacy: www.nae.edu/nae/naetech.nsf?OpenDatabase
- ED MSP Program: www.ed.gov/programs/mathsci/index.html
- NSF Mathematics and Science Partnership Program: www.ehr.nsf.gov/msp/