



Arizona Science Teachers Association

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State of Arizona
Department of Education
1535 W Jefferson Street
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RE: Arizona School Accountability Components & System – ESSA

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to be writing this letter on behalf of the Arizona Science Teacher Association in support of robust funding in science and STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) education for all students in Arizona through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs have a significant impact on Arizona and our nation's economic future. Growth in STEM jobs in Arizona is critical for our current and future economy. In the past few years, Arizona and U.S. businesses have voiced concerns over the supply and availability of STEM workers. We must ensure all our students are prepared for the demands of our local and national workforce.

Strong evidence demonstrates the need for students to have access to STEM opportunities, a variety of academic programs, and modern technology. Arizona has a wide diversity of rich cultural needs. STEM education recognizes these diverse and equitable needs of all students through its ability to connect teaching and learning experiences to real world and relevant topics.

For all Arizona students to have access to a well-rounded education, funding in the area of science and STEM education is essential. Professional development in STEM-specific areas including teacher leadership training with high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics will help support the future of STEM-literate students in Arizona.

We strongly urge Arizona to examine the importance of significantly funding science and STEM education for all Arizona students through the ESSA guidelines. Should any additional information be desired, please don't hesitate to call upon the Arizona Science Teachers Association.

Sincerely,

Sara Torres
Executive Director