



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

October 25, 2023

Dear Member of Congress:

Today, hundreds of members of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) will be on Capitol Hill meeting with those elected to represent them. Founded in 1920, NCTM supports investing in teachers of mathematics at every stage of their development and believes that mathematical literacy and fluency can be achieved for every student through an increased emphasis from policymakers on early childhood education, rigorous and engaging PK-12 mathematics instruction, family engagement, high-quality standards, appropriate assessments, and the guarantee of conditions conducive for learning in every school and classroom.

Time and again, research demonstrates that the quality of the teacher in the classroom is the most important factor in successful learning. Success on this count requires support from federal policymakers. We ask you and your colleagues to help NCTM members as they endeavor to:

Support access to qualified mathematics teachers and high-quality mathematics education for all students.

Given the pandemic's lingering challenges, supporting the effective teaching and learning of mathematics is more important than ever. Investments in Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) are crucial to ensuring that students in every school have qualified mathematics teachers in their classrooms and the resources that support successful learning. Title II of ESEA provides invaluable professional development for mathematics teachers. The Teacher Quality Partnership program (authorized in Title II of the Higher Education Act) invests in the programs that are preparing mathematics teachers. These programs are essential.

Please reject the funding levels proposed in the House's FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) bill, including a proposed 80% cut to Title I as well as the elimination of funding for both Title II of ESEA and the Teacher Quality Partnership that invests in teacher preparation. NCTM supports the Senate's bipartisan LHHS bill and urges you to do the same.

Support access for every student to on-grade-level mathematics content and learning.

It is no secret that many of the country's youth are struggling with making sense of and learning mathematics. NCTM and its members are in schools, classrooms, early childhood education, afterschool, summer, and mentoring programs. Investments in professional development, afterschool, early childhood education and programs that are fundamental to public education are crucial to these efforts.

Please reject House calls to cut Head Start and other crucial programs and support adequate funding for Titles I and II of ESEA, the 21st Century Community Learning Center program, and Title IV, Part A of ESEA, the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program, in the FY 2024 LHHS bill. NCTM supports the Senate's bipartisan LHHS bill and urges you to do the same.

Support increased professional learning specific to mathematics.

The 2015 ESEA reauthorization eliminated the Math Science Partnership (MSP) program—a program that invested specifically in mathematics and science educators. Previous iterations of the law included similar programs. The national alarm surrounding mathematics achievement, and the importance of the subject to success in today's workforce, as well as daily life, warrants reconsideration of the law's programs.

Reauthorization of ESEA is not before the 118th Congress, but lawmakers are discussing how to improve the law. In those discussions, please consider the merits of establishing a specific professional development program for mathematics educators. In addition, please support the Educators for America Act (HR 2992/S1341). The bill would strengthen the educator workforce, address the shortage of teachers, and support comprehensive educator preparation.

NCTM's Legislative Platform further outlines how policymakers at the local, state and federal levels can support the goals and work of mathematics educators.

If you have any questions regarding the platform and NCTM's legislative priorities, please do not hesitate to contact Della Cronin at dcronin@bosepublicaffairs.com.

Sincerely,



Kevin Dykema
President