



Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Request Talking Points

- ✓ **The American Competitiveness Initiative is a great start toward keeping the United States at the forefront of STEM education and careers. It needs to be fully funded by Congress, but not at the expense of current important STEM Education programs.**

The budget request for the educational components of the American Competitiveness Initiative is \$380 million. The request is \$125 for Math Now For Elementary School Students Initiative; \$125 million Math Now For Middle School Students Initiative; \$122 million for Advance Placement; \$10 million for a National Mathematics Panel; \$5 million for the evaluation of current federal math and science education programs; and \$25 million for the Adjunct Teacher Corps. The budget request for the Department of Education eliminates 42 programs and is \$3.1 billion less than 2006. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, pp. 1, 21-24, 77]

- ✓ **The American Competitiveness Initiative focuses on mathematics education. Raising math scores is important, but science, technology and engineering education programs should also be emphasized.**

The budget request includes new programs for math education; Math Now For Middle School Students Initiative and Math Now For Elementary School Students Initiative are each budgeted at \$125 million. However, there are no companion programs for science, technology and engineering education. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, pp. 21-24]

- ✓ **The budget request of \$90 million dedicated to funding new competitive awards for AP/IB courses in mathematics, science and foreign languages would help challenge our best and brightest students. However, the budget request includes requisite 2-1 matching funds by state, local, or private sources. This requirement would decrease the effectiveness of the program.**

The \$90 million increase requested for 2007 would fund new competitive awards to expand AP and IB offerings in mathematics, science, and foreign languages. The request also would require grantees to match program funds, with two state, local, or private dollars for every Federal dollar. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, p. 23]

- ✓ **The budget request for AP/IB programs includes a needed focus on passing, not just taking, AP/IB exams.**

Funded projects would include incentives for teachers to become qualified to teach AP/IB courses in these subjects and rewards for teachers whose students pass AP/IB tests in those subjects. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, p. 23]

- ✓ **Vocational education provides opportunity to students who do not necessarily intend to graduate from a four-year college or universities. Eliminating the \$1.2 billion Vocational Education State Grants program would decimate educational opportunities for students who want and need it most.**

The Vocational Education State Grants program was funded at \$1.18 billion in 2006. State grants help state and local schools offer programs to develop the academic, vocational, and technical skills of students in high schools, community colleges, and regional technical centers. Funds from this program can be used for a broad range of programs, services, and activities designed to improve career-technical education programs and ensure access to students who are members of populations with special needs. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, p. 84; Department of Education Website, accessed 2/8/06, <http://www.ed.gov/programs/ctesbg/index.html>]

- ✓ **The Educational Technology State Grants program should not be eliminated from the federal budget. There will always be a need to teach teachers to use the newest technology in their classrooms.**

ETSG provides funding to states and school districts to support the integration of educational technology into classroom instruction and was funded at \$272 million in FY06. The program provides funding to states and local school districts to support the integration of educational technology into classroom instruction. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, p. 79]

- ✓ **Math Science Partnerships programs at the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation should not be cut or eliminated. Cooperation between local school districts and colleges and universities is a vital aspect of STEM Education.**

The Department of Education Mathematics and Science Partnerships program (Title II, Part B) would remain at \$182 billion. President Bush's FY06 request for Title II, Part B was \$269 million. Title II, Part B programs provide grants to states to create partnerships between high-need local school districts and colleges or universities to improve STEM education programs. Math Science Partnerships at NSF would be funded at \$46 million, a \$17 million cut that only funds existing projects. NSF MSPs also would no longer be a line item in the budget request. MSPs at NSF competitively award grants to individual school district-college/university partnerships to develop innovative materials and teaching practices. [U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Summary, p. 24; National Science Foundation Fiscal year 2007 Budget Summary, p. 219]

- ✓ **The budget request for the Education and Human Resources Directorate (EHR) at the National Science Foundation should focus more on education.**

The budget request for EHR is \$816 million, a \$19.5 million increase. However, that increase would be comprised of a \$25.77 million increase for Human Resources Development (HRD) and a \$6.27 million decrease in education spending. Research Subcommittee Chairman Bob Inglis (R-SC): "I also support the increased focus on math and science education highlighted by the President in the State of the Union, but I am concerned that the budget request does not appear to take full advantage of the expertise in this area at NSF." [National Science Foundation Fiscal year 2007 Budget Summary, pp. 215, 218; House Committee on Science Press Release, 2/7/06]

- ✓ **Congress should fully fund the budget request of \$10.9 million for the Office of Science's Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists at the Department of Energy.**

The budget request for the Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists increased \$3.9 million to \$10.9 million. A majority of this funding increase (\$3.8m) will go to the Laboratory Science Teacher Professional Development program, with an emphasis on middle school teachers. [Department of Energy FY 2007 Budget Request, v. 4, p. 531; Department of Energy FY 2007 Budget Request Summary, p. 76]