



**National Center for  
Technological Literacy®**

Museum of Science, Boston

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Boston, MA 02114-1099  
[www.nctl.org](http://www.nctl.org)

June 18, 2013

The Honorable John Kline  
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline:

On behalf of the National Center for Technological Literacy® (NCTL®) based at the Museum of Science, Boston, I commend your efforts in moving forward with a long overdue reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Student Success Act (H.R. 5), includes several provisions that are particularly beneficial for teachers and students.

Specifically, the **Teacher and School Leader Flexible Grant** program established under Title II of your legislation enables organizations such as ours to compete directly for funds to support teacher professional development. While we currently work with hundreds of schools across the country in providing these services, your legislation will make it far more efficient to serve teachers across multiple school districts.

Similarly, language included in the new **Local Competitive Grant** program enables us to directly compete for funding to provide a range of student services. We believe this program, and the required minimum amount that must be directed at private or non-governmental organizations, will be particularly helpful in our ability to carry out innovative after-school programs focused on engineering, computer science, and other STEM subjects.

In addition, I was pleased to see H.R. 5 maintains current provisions related to state standards and assessments for science. The NCTL has worked with numerous states, including Minnesota, to embed engineering design skills and practices into their own state science standards and assessments.

Recently, Achieve, Inc., a bipartisan, non-profit organization that helps states raise academic standards, improve assessments, and strengthen accountability, released the Next Generation Science Standards developed in collaboration with 26 state writing teams, which clearly include engineering design and computational thinking skills. All states may choose to adopt these standards and a great deal of teacher professional development will be necessary to fully implement these ground-breaking, skill-building, problem-solving, science standards.

Therefore, I also strongly encourage the committee to reconsider the elimination of the **Math and Science Partnership** program, but rather amend the program to be STEM inclusive to ensure the ability of schools and districts to carry out engineering, computer science, and other STEM-specific programs and initiatives.

Again, I commend your effort to move forward with the reauthorization of ESEA and look forward to the continued opportunity to work with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ioannis Miaoulis", written over a white background.

Ioannis Miaoulis  
President and Director