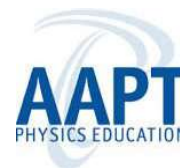


AAPT supports efforts to create effective and inclusive STEM classrooms: *Essential for the US STEM Workforce*



Action: Congress should reject the President's FY 2020 proposed cuts to the Department of Education.

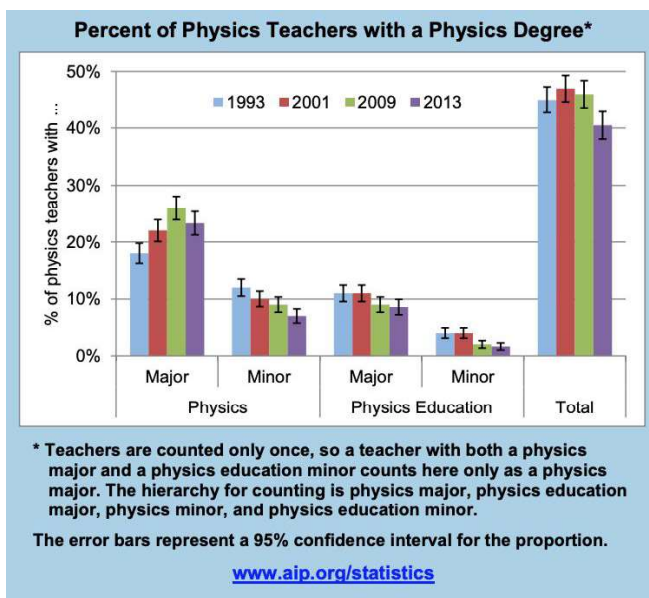
- Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II, Part A)
- Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants (Title IV, Part A)
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers (Title IV, Part B)

Congress should restore these funds to provide high quality professional development programs for physics teachers and high quality after school and informal STEM-related programs.

The American Association of Physics Teachers ([AAPT](http://aapt.org)) recognizes and values the critical role teachers and afterschool programs play in the current and future US STEM Workforce.

"Good science and mathematics education will help create a scientifically literate public, capable of making informed decisions on public policy involving scientific matters. A strong K-12 physics education is also the first step in producing the next generation of researchers, innovators, and technical workers." - AAPT statement, reference below

These programs are vital for states to provide high-quality physical science and STEM education. The Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants program allows states to fund grants for teacher preparation programs. **There is a significant shortage of highly qualified middle and high school physics teachers. In a nationwide survey of teachers in US high schools who taught at least one physics class, only 40 percent have major or minor in physics or physics education.** The Student Support and Academic Enhancement Grants and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers gives states funding for out of school STEM programs to enhance learning.



The AAPT is committed to increasing access to high quality physics instruction for all individuals including people of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, physical appearances and abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, and military or veteran statuses. Supporting professional development and afterschool programs is a essential to this effort.

The President's proposed cuts to the Department of Education funding misalign with the new Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) STEM Education Five year plan that emphasizes, "Building a strong foundation for STEM literacy, increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM, and preparing the STEM workforce for the future."

Resources and references:

<https://aapt.org/Resources/policy/futuretaeched.cfm>

<https://www.aip.org/sites/default/files/statistics/highschool/hs-whoteaches-13.pdf>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/STEM-Education-Strategic-Plan-2018.pdf>

AAPT (aapt.org) is a professional membership association of scientists dedicated to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of physics through teaching. AAPT members include K-12 and Higher Education educators around the world.