

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Priorities

For the President-Elect Obama Transition Team

December 4, 2008

Research. Consider existing research from a broader range of methodologies. Include teachers in the development of an agenda of research questions, and support and fund research on the resulting questions. Select a director of the Institute of Education Sciences who will influence to focus the direction and use of future education research.

Curricular Coherence. Use the Critical Foundations developed by the National Math Panel and NCTM's *Curriculum Focal Points* to frame the discussion about the need for greater coherence and consistency of preK–8 curricula through the nation.

Tax credits. Consider income tax credits to provide incentives for experienced, proven teachers to teach in high-need schools.

“Math Now.” Fund the initiative in the America COMPETES Act authorizing a new initiative to prepare elementary and middle school students for rigorous high school mathematics courses.

National Science Foundation. Support NSF's Transformative Research initiative to generate research-based education innovation. We also support doubling the NSF budget within five years, and for NSF education programs to receive budget increases at least commensurate with those of the overall NSF budget. Consider changing name of one or both of the existing Math-Science Partnership programs to better distinguish their differences.

Equity. NCTM strongly embraces the goal of equity embodied in federal education policies and works to reach the untapped potential of all America's students by ensuring equitable mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students.

Early Childhood. Learning begins at birth, and a public commitment to prepare children for success as early as possible is essential and overdue. We strongly encourage the inclusion of mathematics educators on the envisioned Presidential Early Learning Council.

Title I. Expand Title I programs to include mathematics and science instruction. We support the current emphasis on reading, but the recent report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel reinforces the importance of providing young children with a solid foundation in math and science.

Engage parents. Engage parents to support the efforts of classroom teachers as well as the overall goals of public education. Show parents the level at which their child is expected to perform, as well as provide information on alternative learning sources, tutors, and how to save for college.