



CHARTER of the COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**A. Official Designation**

Pursuant to the requirements of Sec. 101 of the *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010* (the Act),<sup>1</sup> the Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education (CoSTEM) is hereby established by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) (Executive Order 12881 of November 23, 1993, as amended).

The CoSTEM serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC and provides overall guidance and direction. The NSTC, a Cabinet-level council, is the principal means for the President to coordinate science and technology policies across the Federal Government.

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the CoSTEM is to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education pursuant to the requirements of Sec. 101(a) of the Act.

**C. Functions**

The CoSTEM, in accordance with the Act, will:

1. Review STEM education activities and programs, and the respective assessments of each, throughout Federal agencies to ensure effectiveness;
2. Coordinate, with the Office of Management and Budget, STEM education activities and programs throughout Federal agencies; and
3. Develop and implement through the participating agencies a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, to be updated every 5 years.

**D. Membership**

The following departments and agencies are represented on the CoSTEM:

Department of Agriculture;  
Department of Commerce;  
Department of Defense;  
Department of Education;  
Department of Energy;  
Department of Health and Human Services;  
Department of the Interior;  
Department of Transportation;

Environmental Protection Agency;  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and  
National Science Foundation.

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the CoSTEM:

Domestic Policy Council;  
National Economic Council;  
Office of Management and Budget; and  
Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive organizations, departments and agencies as the Co-Chairs may designate.

**E. Private Sector Interface**

The CoSTEM may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The CoSTEM may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.


**F. Termination Date**

This charter shall terminate no later than March 31, 2015 unless renewed by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

**G. Determination**

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Committee on STEM Education is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

  
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John P. Holdren  
Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and  
Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

2-1-2011  
Date

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant Language from the America COMPETES Act (Pub. L. No. 111-358):

**SEC. 101. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL STEM EDUCATION.**

(a) Establishment- The Director shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council, including the Office of Management and Budget, with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education, including at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and all other Federal agencies that have programs and activities in support of STEM education.

(b) Responsibilities- The committee established under subsection (a) shall--

- (1) coordinate the STEM education activities and programs of the Federal agencies;
- (2) coordinate STEM education activities and programs with the Office of Management and Budget;
- (3) encourage the teaching of innovation and entrepreneurship as part of STEM education activities;
- (4) review STEM education activities and programs to ensure they are not duplicative of similar efforts within the Federal government;
- (5) develop, implement through the participating agencies, and update once every 5 years a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, which shall--
  - (A) specify and prioritize annual and long-term objectives;
  - (B) specify the common metrics that will be used to assess progress toward achieving the objectives;
  - (C) describe the approaches that will be taken by each participating agency to assess the effectiveness of its STEM education programs and activities; and
  - (D) with respect to subparagraph (A), describe the role of each agency in supporting programs and activities designed to achieve the objectives; and
- (6) establish, periodically update, and maintain an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs and activities, including documentation of assessments of the effectiveness of such programs and activities and rates of participation by women, underrepresented minorities, and persons in rural areas in such programs and activities.