



ESSA and STEM Teachers

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes several provisions designed to help states and districts prepare, train, and recruit high-quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teachers.* These provisions include the following:

Alternative certification allows states “to establish, expand, or improve alternative routes for state certification of teachers especially for teachers of ... science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or other areas where the state experiences a shortage of educators.”

Differential pay allows states and districts to “provide differential pay, or other incentives, to recruit and retain teachers in high need academic subjects” such as STEM.

Use of block grants for STEM professional development allows states and districts to use state block grants “to develop and provide professional development and other comprehensive systems of support for teachers, principals, or other school leaders to promote high-quality instruction and instructional leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects, including computer science.”

STEM master teacher corps enables the Secretary of Education to award grants to states to “support the development of a state-wide STEM master teacher corps.”

Professional development in technology for STEM teachers stipulates that school districts receiving grants of \$30,000 or more “to improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement, academic growth, and digital literacy of all students” must spend a portion of those funds on allowable uses, which include “professional development in the use of technology to enable teachers and instructional leaders to increase student achievement in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.”

* See <http://www.stemedcoalition.org/2015/12/01/coalition-analysis-of-key-stem-provisions-in-esea-act/> for additional information. The full text of ESSA is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-act-of-1965.pdf>.