



# RAISE THE BAR:

## STEM Excellence for All Students



**We must provide all students access to a broad and challenging STEM education to prepare them with the deep knowledge and skills to succeed in STEM and beyond.**

To improve students' learning and outcomes in STEM, the U.S. Department of Education launched the [Raise the Bar: STEM Excellence for All Students initiative](#), called You Belong in STEM (YBIS). YBIS is designed to strengthen Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education nationwide. This new Biden-Harris Administration initiative will help implement and scale equitable, high-quality STEM education for all students across their educational trajectory—from PreK to postsecondary—to ensure academic excellence for every learner.



### Creating a sense of belonging in STEM

Research shows that a sense of belonging, or students' sense of being accepted, valued, and included, is related to students' long-term academic success. Groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields greatly benefit from supportive learning environments that enhance their positive STEM identities, including their sense of competence and belonging within STEM. Belonging in STEM starts early in school with students' exposure to quality teaching, access to relevant and engaging material, and educator growth mindsets about students' ability to achieve.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO SUPPORT STEM EDUCATION

To ensure all students benefit from STEM, the Department is galvanizing the broader education ecosystem to prioritize three goals for STEM education:



### GOAL 1

Ensure all students from PreK to higher education excel in rigorous, relevant, and joyful STEM learning.



### GOAL 2

Develop and support STEM educators to join, grow, and stay in the STEM education field.



### GOAL 3

Invest in STEM education strategically and sufficiently using federal, state, and local funds.

These goals provide strategic direction for the Department's STEM-related efforts to meet the most pressing needs of students and educators. Further, through this initiative, the Department calls on all states, districts, schools, and STEM-connected organizations and industries to make specific, tangible commitments aligned to the goals to provide all students with the experiences and resources they need to succeed in STEM and in life.

### Key Strategies

- Develop public-private partnerships to amplify the Department's reach and impact on PreK-higher education STEM learning opportunities and outcomes.
- Conduct bright spots campaign to elevate effective and scalable STEM practices.
- Convene key stakeholders to monitor collective progress and advance priorities.
- Release guidance on allowable uses of federal education funds on rigorous, relevant, and joyful STEM learning and STEM educator recruitment and retention.
- Disseminate research findings on effective instructional practice and school climate that creates belonging and persistence in STEM education and career pathways.

Visit the [Department of Education's STEM webpage](#) to read more about the specific strategies outlined here, connect to resources and technical assistance, and learn about federal grants that can support these strategies.