

F.A.S.T. Position Statement on Eisenhower Funds

Eisenhower funds were born of the need to broaden the frontiers of science through effective, current science instruction. Throughout the years, these funds have helped serve the needs of science education, but are now being diverted to other areas. ***It is our position that these funds must be refocused on science education.***

Students in our schools today are preparing to enter a world of geometrically expanding technology and knowledge. Without a firm grounding in the principles and current practices of science, our students will be unprepared to solve the complex problems they will face in tomorrow's world. To meet this need, we must support the innovative, excellent science education for all our students which is described by state and national science standards and benchmarks. The accountability brought by these standards requires science education which can change to keep pace with the progress of science and developments in instructional technology.

Eisenhower funds provide a flexible, essential resource to support the professional development of science teachers. The programs allows schools, districts, and individual teachers to select professional development activities which best serve their needs and make best use of local resources. Eisenhower funding supports a broad range of activities, including graduate course work in science, training in the use of latest instructional technology, and workshops on new developments in science and science instruction. Today's science teachers need this support for ongoing training, as they bring into service technology and knowledge which were unknown when many of them received their undergraduate training. Eisenhower funds are a vital element in providing for this critical need, and maintaining excellence in science education