



Education Foundation

THE 111TH CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION

Why You Should Support Geography Education:

- Our nation is facing a crisis in geographic literacy.
- American young adults rank at the bottom in geographic literacy surveys of some of the world's most developed countries (National Geographic/Roper Global Geographic Literacy Survey, 2002).
- Sixty-three percent of young Americans cannot locate Iraq on a map of the Middle East. Half cannot find the state of New York on a map of the U.S. (National Geographic/Roper Global Geographic Literacy Survey, 2006).
- Geography is the only one of the nine core subjects under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) not to have received designated federal funding since NCLB went into effect in 2002.
- As a result, we are jeopardizing our global competitiveness, our position of diplomatic leadership, and our ability to fill and retain over 70,000 new skilled jobs in geospatial technologies each year.

There is a Solution:

- Professional development in geography education works.
- Students of teachers with professional development in geography education have achieved significantly higher scores on relevant portions of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test (Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, 2002).
- Professional development would help ensure that all young people acquire the vital geography skills and experience they need.

Funding Professional Development in Geography Education is the Critical First Step:

- Professional development can best be achieved by directing federal funding towards:
 - Improving geography teaching, training, and research in our nation's schools.
 - Building on the state-by-state, university-hosted Geography Alliance program established by the National Geographic Society to expand support for geography education partnerships.
 - Innovative geography education programs operated by state and local education agencies and nonprofit educational organizations across the nation.
 - National nonprofit efforts to strengthen geography education and geographic literacy on a nationwide basis.

With your help, we can raise the standard of Geography Education in the U.S.!