



OHIO BOARD
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JOINT COUNCIL

**Joint Council of the Ohio Board of Regents and State Board of
Education
Statement of Support
Ohio's Leadership Plan for
Mathematics and Science Student Learning
October 17, 2001**

We learned from the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) that there are striking gaps in teaching and learning in the United States compared to other countries. We also know from Ohio data that there is a glaring, disproportionate performance between minority and majority students.

The National Commission on Mathematics and Science Teaching for the 21st Century reiterated this finding. It reaffirmed that the future well-being of our nation depends not just on how well we educate our children generally, but on how well we educate them in mathematics and science specifically. The Commission advised that we could do a better job teaching our children to understand and use ideas from the mathematics and science fields. It reminded us that the most powerful instrument for change rests at the very core of education – with teaching itself.

The Joint Council of the Ohio Board of Regents and State Board of Education takes these facts seriously. We know that our technology-based global economy demands higher-level knowledge and skills in mathematics and science. We understand that Ohio's students must improve their performance in mathematics and science if they are to stay competitive in an integrated global economy.

Therefore, the Joint Council supports the development of **Ohio's Leadership Plan for Mathematics and Science Student Learning**. It endorses the initiative's efforts to develop a total systems approach to improving mathematics and science education as it provides incentives to and support for underserved populations – including women, minorities and low-income students – who must have equal access to Ohio's educated, technological workforce of the 21st century.