

Florida Summit on Science and Mathematics Education
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Summit sought to create support and effective action for strengthening science education in Florida at the state, Department of Education, and school district policy levels. The Summit gathered 135 leaders from Florida's business and education communities and state legislators to develop recommendations for concerted state-wide action to improve learning in mathematics and science of all Florida's students at all grade levels.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

The ultimate outcomes are policies and actions that support large-scale change of student learning. Outcomes cannot solely be ascribed to this project because the agenda of improving learning in mathematics and science is not unique. Some of the successes include:

1. The Summit develops a master document of recommendations for the legislature, the Department of Education, and School District that lays the foundation for all actions since then (2005)
2. Legislation passes to establish a STEM Council – vetoed by the Governor (2006)
3. Florida Department of Education includes a STEM Research Center. Appropriation of \$1,500,000 a year approved and the Florida Research Center in STEM (FCR-STEM) established at Florida State University (2007)
4. Florida's Department of Education creates a single 3-year, \$23,000,000 plan to provide professional development on reform methods in mathematics and science, using Title IIB funds (2007-2010)
5. Florida revises its mathematics and science education standards: Next Generation Sunshine State Standards that emphasize content knowledge, depth, and understanding of the nature of science. Evolution is treated explicitly as a "big idea". Approved (over the objections of a strong Intelligent Design lobby) by the Board of Education by a vote of 4:3 (2008)
6. State legislature approves a change from broad Comprehensive Assessment in high school to end-of-course exams, to be implemented in 2011 (2008)
7. Workforce Florida provides \$450,000 to create and operate a Florida STEM Council of business representatives (2009); a series of 5 STEM Florida Business Roundtables will take place between January 19 and March 1, 2010 and is rejuvenating the statewide reform initiative