

Perhaps it's time to bring back Mr. Wizard?

Our state leaders need to fund both Science and Math this coming year!

An Open Letter to the Governor and Legislature of the Great State of California:

Remember being mesmerized by the fascinating little experiments of a Mr. Wizard?
Even the kindergarten class needs the opportunity to learn of the wonders of Science and Math this coming year, so that they are totally immersed by the third grade.

And all of our children—from the most privileged to the most at risk—need to be equipped and encouraged to know the life rewards accessible to them through a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) related career path.

While we applaud the compromise reached this week by the Governor and Legislature to provide extremely important funding for education programs aimed at bettering the lives of the poor and students learning English, we also believe that basic instruction in Science has been given insufficient attention for far too many years.

Science and Math skills are an investment in our youngest citizens and in the future of this state. Science instruction can have a profound effect on the future of our challenged communities and our children. Science should be an important element of the curriculum for all students this coming year.

Recently-adopted Common Core State Standards for English and Math will help motivate all students to graduate from our public schools ready for college and career. They will ensure that all will have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to our local and the global economies.

In California today there are innovation companies that can offer jobs to students from our diverse families and backgrounds—as long as they are well-prepared.

Wait until next year to invest in Science education?

In this very state where the biotech industry and the Tesla electric car were born, now employing hundreds of thousands of Californians, how can we exclude Science from the new dollars being invested in our K12 schools?

The State Legislature will soon vote on the 2013–14 state budget proposals. We all need to step up and support critical investments in K12 schools. We all need to insist that Science is equally valued alongside English and Math for both students and professional development offerings for teachers.

Let's not overlook one of our greatest assets for a better future. Our children in California public schools.



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