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Refueling the U.S. Innovation Economy: STEM Reform

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ITIF is a public policy think tank committed to articulating and advancing a pro-productivity, pro-innovation and pro-technology public policy agenda internationally, in Washington and in the states. ITIF focuses on:

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- ICT and economic productivity
- Innovation and trade policy
Problems with Assumptions of Current Approach to STEM

- Improving STEM is not a Linear, Mechanistic Process
- Giving All Students Some STEM is Expensive
- More Money Won’t Solve the Problem
- More Requirements and Mandates Won’t Solve the Problem
Limitations of the “Some STEM for All” Approach

“Some STEM for All” approach is to make sure that every high school graduate and a much larger share of college grads become proficient in STEM.

Interventions at the K-12 level include:

• boosting K-12 teacher quality (e.g., increasing teacher pay, requiring higher STEM teacher qualifications)

• more rigorous STEM standards (e.g., expanding requirements for STEM courses, more rigorous testing and assessment)

• improving curriculum, and

• boosting awareness among students of the importance and attractiveness of STEM careers
Need a new “All STEM for Some” Approach

- More project based learning
- More STEM High Schools
- More Incentives at University and College Level to Graduate STEM students
Thank You

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