

National Math and Science Initiative and DoD STEM Launch College Readiness Program at Two Military-Connected Schools in Brevard

Two-Year Program to Increase Mastery of College-Level Concepts Among Students Historically Underrepresented in STEM

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The National Math and Science Initiative has launched its College Readiness Program (CRP) in partnership with two Brevard Public Schools (BPS), Viera High School and Satellite High School. Both are military-connected schools serving Patrick Space Force Base. The program partnership is made possible with dedicated funding from the Department of Defense's STEM Education & Outreach office (known as "DoD STEM") through the Defense STEM Education Consortium (DSEC).

BPS Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Leading and Learning, Dr. Stephanie Soliven says of the partnership, "The training and educational materials provided by the National Math and Science Initiative afford our students opportunities to work through the rigorous AP coursework with a proven advantage. Brevard Public Schools is excited to be partnered with NMSI to improve student learning, and we look forward to seeing the success of our students for years to come. Students working through this program will be better prepared for their continued post-secondary studies as well as their careers beyond."

After one year in NMSI's CRP, students at military-connected schools average a **45 percent** increase in mastery of college-level concepts in math and science — compared to the national average increase of 5.6 percent. That increase is **81.5 percent** for Black students, **34 percent** for Latinos, and **38.4 percent** for females.

Students with family members serving in the military move an average of six to nine times during elementary and secondary school. NMSI's CRP leverages the College Board's proven Advanced Placement framework, preserving local control and creating consistent learning across schools. That means students are on pace from their first day in a new school making each move a little easier.

"We are proud to have Viera High School and Satellite High School in partnership with the National Math and Science Initiative in launching its College Readiness Program," said Major General Stephen Purdy, Space Launch Delta 45 Commander. "This is an opportunity to develop our students in diverse areas of education. Viera and Satellite High School play a big role in supporting our military families and help develop our future leaders through amazing STEM education programs."

"NMSI's college readiness program has proven to be exemplary in engaging students in STEM, especially students who are historically underrepresented in these subject areas," said DoD STEM Director Louie Lopez. "The Department of Defense offers unique and immersive internship and career opportunities across the Defense laboratories and centers, including uniformed and civilian roles. STEM skills — such as critical thinking and problem-solving — are required for those opportunities, and set the foundation for success across other

careers and personal endeavors.”

To commemorate this partnership, BPS is hosting a “Welcome to the NMSI Family” Celebration on Thursday, March 2nd at 10:00 am at Viera High School. NMSI Executive Director and veteran astronaut, Dr. Bernard Harris, will be the keynote speaker at the event.

About BPS: Brevard Public Schools is the 49th largest district in the U.S., and the 10th largest district in Florida. As the largest employer in Brevard County, BPS employs over 8,000 staff members serving over 74,300 students annually. With 84 schools, 15 special centers, and 12 charter schools, the district educates its students in 17 different municipalities across the Space Coast. Brevard Public School's goal is to serve our community and enhance students' lives by delivering the highest quality education in a culture of dedication, collaboration, and learning

About NMSI

National Math and Science Initiative is a Dallas-based nonprofit with a presence in 40 states. NMSI has served more than 1,300 U.S. high schools to improve student access and achievement in STEM education through teacher training, collaboration with campus leaders and student-focused resources. Schools that participate in the NMSI College Readiness Program see immediate and dramatic increases in the number of students taking Advanced Placement exams and earning qualifying scores. NMSI seeks to give access to high-quality, college-level coursework for all students, particularly those underrepresented in STEM programs, which are often Black, Latino and female students. NMSI has served more than 300 U.S. schools with significant enrollment among military-connected students. Learn more at nmsi.org.

About DoD STEM: The U.S. Department of Defense's STEM Education and Outreach programmatic initiatives seek to inspire, cultivate and develop exceptional STEM talent across the education continuum to create a diverse and sustainable STEM talent pool ready to meet current and future defense technological challenges. For more information, visit <https://dodstem.us/> follow @DoDSTEM on social media.

About DSEC: The Defense Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education Consortium (DSEC) is a collaborative partnership between academia, industry, not-for-profit organizations and government that aims to broaden STEM literacy and develop a diverse and agile workforce with the technical excellence to defend our nation. DSEC partners offer educational programs, internships, and scholarships for students and many career development opportunities for educators. To learn about DSEC partners, visit <https://dodstem.us/about/partners/>.

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