

# Archived Information

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Breakout Public Engagement Group #1:

Team Leaders: Owens (NASA) and Wheeler (NSTA)

After much discussion, the participants identified these key mathematics education issues as important by public engagement group participants. From this list, the participants were asked to vote for their top five issues; numbers to the right reflect how many votes each issue received.

1. Importance of knowing *what math is* (12)
2. Girls are underrepresented in STEM (5)
3. Communicate that *all can do math* (5)
4. Many K-12 teachers are math adverse and this transfers to students (1)
5. There is a lack of coordination and collaboration among all organization concerned with these issues. There is *no consistent message*. (5)
6. The math community has no agreement on what is good math instruction (3)
7. How do we engage the public sector in conversations about the value of math education (5)
8. There is a lack of understanding by business and industry (inheriting the “math gene” vs. good instruction) on the relevance of mathematics and workforce issues (8)
9. How can the public make a difference on these issues? (1)
10. Develop a common understanding of ‘hidden math’ that relates to everyday life.
11. Parents do not know of the resources available for their students to succeed. (1)
12. Is the message more effective if communication is in isolation or if math is together with science (2)
13. Math and science deserve the same attention as reading/literacy (3)
14. Exercise caution with the scientific research for math (1)
15. Get rid of the “math wars” thinking (3)
16. Different strategies are needed for different audiences
17. Parents don’t know how to help their children (3)
18. How do we reach the children of poverty (4)
19. How do we align after school program with goals?
20. Are schools of education preparing teachers correctly? (4)
21. Public awareness campaign needs to involve different communities for campaigns (3)
22. Lack of airtime for campaign (3)
23. Language barrier between stakeholders in K-12 (5)
24. Need to understand what we need to accomplish with a sustained campaign (2)

After streamlining the list, these key issues emerged

Why math matters: economic and social implications, and national security issues

Partnerships of stakeholders in K-12 mathematics must have consensus and cooperation. There must be a consistent message, and the message must be crisp with a focused delivery. Any type of public engagement must employ a common language and a sustainable model.

The lack of success in math and science by underrepresented populations is a key concern. There must be an ideal of success for every student. Funding should be equalized so that this success can occur. Any public engagement campaign must be comprehensive and must employ multifaceted strategies to address a number of populations.