



POSITION STATEMENT

EARLY LEARNING

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education is a cross-domain strategy to foster a myriad of undefined skills for which states are attempting to use standards, such as Common Core, to establish parameters. Many pre-K and elementary teachers have obtained state licensure without taking rigorous college-level courses such as statistics, research, applied technology, and calculus, as these courses were not required within their subject matter domain.

Destination Imagination (DI) believes it is time to be a “loud” voice for pre-K and elementary teachers and for the early learners. Teachers need to have the opportunity to understand how to create an environment that fosters STEM and literacy. Recognizing that there is a sense of urgency, DI has developed *Pathways*, a teacher preparation program with early learner STEM and literacy lessons including feedback strategies.

The goal of our advocacy is to accomplish the following objectives:

Teachers:

1. Provide pre-K and elementary teachers with a hands-on turn-key training program that co-teaches them and their students about STEM and literacy concepts
2. Provide pre-K and elementary teachers a turn-key program that fosters rich experiences for children enabling positive brain development
3. Give teachers proven strategies for learning and teaching STEM concepts
4. Provide teachers with a selection of books tied to lesson concepts
5. Provide teachers with interactive take home elements to engage parents and other supporters in the learning process

Students:

1. Prepare early learners for elementary grades and STEM education
2. Give early learner students successful positive experiences with STEM concepts that are also fun and engaging
3. Give these students the chance to explore the world of STEM with real world lessons
4. Provide engaging and fun opportunities for social, emotional, and collaborative learning

Destination Imagination is committed to advocating for early learners and their teachers. Together we can elevate the success of students and at the same time prepare them for the future. For more information about *Pathways* or about joining this outreach initiative, please visit our website at www.destinationimagination.org or contact Chuck Cadle, CEO of DI at 856.324.4795.