

Castle Stresses Need for Early Childhood Math Education at Hearing With Secretary of Education and Secretary of Labor -- April 6, 2006

Washington D.C. -- Today, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, on which Delaware Congressman Mike Castle is a senior Member held a hearing entitled, "Building America's Competitiveness: Examining What is Needed to Compete in a Global Economy," with U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings and U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao.

In highlighting, Secretary Spellings' recent visit to Delaware, Castle questioned her about the need to help children focus on math and science at a very early age, not simply in high school or in postsecondary education. Secretary Spellings joined in Congressman Castle's concern, and pointed to efforts underway at the U.S. Department of Education to identify how best to impact these early age groups, particularly in how best to address higher order thinking in elementary classes, for example developing pre-algebra skills and the core principles of effectiveness in math education.

Castle goals for math/science competitiveness:

- Dual enrollment of high school students in college: Not only does this allow high school students an easier transition into college, but provides practical skills early.
- Highlighting parental involvement: This comes in two forms, and cannot be legislated. First, a parent must make the point to their children, early, the importance of an education -- including math and science. Education must be a priority in the household. Second, as seen in DE, schools offer programs where parents can become involved.
- Hiring math teachers for elementary schools, as opposed to classroom teachers providing the math lessons.