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Dear Prospective Elementary Science Coalition Member:

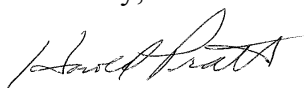
For the past five years, I have served as President of the Academic Advisory Board for Chicago Science Group. Comprised of the nation's leading K-12 science educators, this Board was established to promote the very best ideas and practices in elementary science education. As an extension of our current advisory roles, the Academic Advisory Board is pleased to serve as the primary academic advisor for the Elementary Science Coalition.

A considerable amount of attention has been devoted to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education over the last several years, and a number of stakeholders and coalitions have made important strides in improving and promoting STEM education. In furtherance of the good work accomplished by existing stakeholders, the Elementary Science Coalition joins this important discussion while focusing its attention on elementary education. To that end, the Academic Advisory Board's engagement with the Elementary Science Coalition is the appropriate and necessary next step in advancing the discussion of elementary science education and improving the quality and quantity of science teaching and learning at the elementary level.

We as a nation have reached a critical juncture—now more than ever, we are beginning to collectively understand that the country's economic and competitive strength is dependent on our ability to produce students equipped with the tools and skills needed to excel in science and related fields. In order to equip students with the skills they will need to succeed in the workplace, we must tap into their curiosity and take advantage of the opportunity to begin to teach them about science processes as they explore, quantify, and interpret the world beginning at a very young age. The fundamental mission of the Elementary Science Coalition—to triple the amount of science instruction at the elementary level—is incredibly important in preparing elementary students to gain the basic understanding and skills that will serve as building blocks for more advanced learning throughout their academic career. Without this important early start, the resources invested at secondary and university levels will be far less effective.

The Academic Advisory Board and I encourage you to join the Elementary Science Coalition to be a part of an initiative that will affect positive change in elementary science instruction and ultimately in the larger STEM activities at all levels.

Sincerely,



Harold Pratt
President, Academic Advisory Board