



## Join with AAG to Support Geography Education

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION** developed by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) proposes the advancement of geography education with three major recommendations. This resolution has been endorsed by U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense, many governors, major national organizations and corporations, and dozens of state geographic alliances and other groups. See reverse side for a partial listing of these endorsers. We strongly urge adoption of the key goals of this resolution.

### AAG Resolution Supporting K–12 Geography Education

**WHEREAS**, Congress is scheduled to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), commonly known as “No Child Left Behind,” for the first time in almost a decade;

**WHEREAS**, geography is one of ten “core academic subjects” identified in the ESEA for which specific funding allocations and implementing programs are proposed to further its teaching at the K-12 level;

**WHEREAS**, geography education is central to preparing students to be informed citizens of the United States and economically competitive in a rapidly globalizing world;

**WHEREAS**, geotechnologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GPS, photogrammetry, surveying, mapping, and remote sensing, have been identified by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields, with job opportunities growing and diversifying rapidly, creating substantial workforce growth as these technologies prove their value in ever more areas;

**WHEREAS**, employers in all sectors, including private companies, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have indicated that there is a pressing need for more students graduating today with the geographic science and geospatial skills needed to support a rapidly growing field;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS:**

Urges the Obama Administration to include geography and geospatial education in its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and ESEA Blueprint for Reform proposals;

Urges Congress to include authorizations and appropriations for geography education consistent with other core academic subjects for K-12, as part of a reauthorized ESEA; and

Urges Congress to enhance geography teacher training by passing legislation such as the Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act.

*“During my time as Secretary of State, I witnessed firsthand how important it was that Americans understood geography and the world around them. Since then, as countries have become even more interconnected, that need has grown. As a result, I support the efforts by the AAG to promote geography education in our schools, and I encourage the White House and Congress to do the same.”*

— **James A. Baker III**  
U.S. Secretary of State

*“Geography played a leading role in nearly every policy decision I was involved in as Secretary of State. Young Americans with an understanding of peoples, places, and cultures have a clear advantage in today’s rapidly-changing global economy and I am encouraged that the AAG is working with Congress and the Administration to build support for geography education at the K-12 level!”*

— **Madeleine Albright**  
U.S. Secretary of State

Turn Page to **See Who Has Endorsed the AAG Resolution to Support Geography Education**

# The AAG Resolution Supporting Geography Education has been endorsed or adopted by the following:

(Partial List)

## U.S. Secretaries of State

**The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright**  
Secretary of State, 1997-2001

**The Honorable James A. Baker III**  
Secretary of State, 1989-1992

**The Honorable Henry A. Kissinger**  
Secretary of State, 1973-1977

**The Honorable George P. Shultz**  
Secretary of State, 1982-1989

## U.S. Secretaries of Defense

**The Honorable William S. Cohen**  
Secretary of Defense, 1997-2001

**The Honorable Robert M. Gates**  
Secretary of Defense, 2006-2011

## Senior Government Officials

**The Honorable Haley Barbour**  
Governor of Mississippi, 2004-2012

**The Honorable Bill Richardson**  
Governor of New Mexico, 2003-2011; also, former U.S. Ambassador to UN and former U.S. Secretary of Energy

**The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth**  
former U.S. Senator; current President of UN Foundation & Better World Fund

**General Charles F. Wald**, USAF, Ret.

**Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn**, USN, Ret.

**Vice Admiral Robert Murrett**, USN, Ret.

## Leading Environmental Organizations

**American Council On Renewable Energy:** ACORE is dedicated to building a secure and prosperous America with clean, renewable energy.

**Environmental Defense Fund:** With a membership of over 700,000, EDF's mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends.

**The Jane Goodall Institute:** JGI is a global leader in chimpanzee behavioral research and protection, community-based conservation, and youth service.

**National Council for Science and the Environment:** NCSE works to improve the scientific basis for environmental decisionmaking.

**U.S. Green Building Council:** USGBC promotes sustainability in how buildings are designed, built, and operated.

## Governors

**Governor Robert Bentley**, *Alabama*

**Governor Sam Brownback**, *Kansas*

**Governor Phil Bryant**, *Mississippi*

**Governor Lincoln Chafee**, *Rhode Island*

**Governor Mark Dayton**, *Minnesota*

**Governor Mary Fallin**, *Oklahoma*

**Governor Benigno Fitial**, *Northern Mariana Islands*

**Governor Gary Herbert**, *Utah*

**Governor Paul LePage**, *Maine*

**Governor Martin O'Malley**, *Maryland*

**Governor Pat Quinn**, *Illinois*

**Governor Rick Scott**, *Florida*

**Governor Peter Shumlin**, *Vermont*

**Governor Earl Ray Tomblin**, *West Virginia*

## Major Private-Sector Supporters

AOL Inc.

Boeing Company

CMS Energy

Esri, Inc.

General Motors Company

Google, Inc.

Lockheed Martin

Microsoft Corporation

National Grid USA

Nissan North America

Nokia Inc.

Public Service Enterprise Group

Raytheon Company

SAIC

Southwest Airlines Co.

Sprint Nextel Corporation

Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

Verizon Communications Inc.

## National Organizations

**American Congress on Surveying and Mapping:** ACSM members include over 5,000 surveyors, cartographers, geodesists, and related professionals.

**American Geographical Society:** AGS members work to support the need for geography.

**American Geosciences Institute:** AGI is a federation of geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 earth scientists.

**American Meteorological Society:** AMS promotes the development and dissemination of information and education on atmospheric and related sciences.

**American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing:** ASPRS members are professionals in geospatial technologies.

**Association of American Geographers:** The AAG is a scientific, research, and educational organization comprised of more than 10,000 members from colleges and universities, the private sector, and government agencies.

**Cartography and Geographic Information Society:** CaGIS members design, implement, and use cartography, GIS, and related technologies.

**Coalition of Geospatial Organizations:** Consists of 12 national geographic technology organizations.

**Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute:** GISCI has certified over 4,000 GIS Professionals.

**Geospatial Information and Technology Association:** GITA represents public and private utilities and telecom companies.

**International Association of Assessing Officers:** The IAAO's 8,000 members include government assessment officials.

**Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors:** MAPPs is a national association of firms in the surveying, spatial data, and GIS fields.

**National Association of State Boards of Education:** Founded in 1958, NASBE represents state and territorial boards of education.

**National Council for Geographic Education:** NCGE represents educators committed to enhancing the quality of geography teaching and learning.

**National Geographic Society:** One of the largest non-profit scientific and educational institutions in the world, NGS has been inspiring people to care about the planet since 1888.

**National States Geographic Information Council:** NSGIC members are GIS coordinators and managers from the U.S. states and territories.

**United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation:** USGIF members use geospatial intelligence to protect the U.S.

**University Consortium for Geographic Information Science:** UCGIS represents 70 universities involved in GIS research and education.

**Urban and Regional Information Systems Association:** URISA promotes the effective management of urban and regional systems.