



***Request: Please support the Data Science and Literacy Act of 2023***

*Why Data Science and Literacy?*

- The American people constantly interact with and are affected by data. Data literacy is critical for students to make personal decisions, understand risk and uncertainty, and thrive in a data-driven society
- Given the growth of data-intensive jobs and the rising use of data across a variety of fields, data science and data literacy education are critical for building America's workforce, especially in STEM fields

*What are Data Science and Data Literacy?*

- *Data science* is an interdisciplinary field that seeks to use aspects of statistics, mathematics, and computer science to extract knowledge from data
- *Data literacy* refers to the ability to understand and communicate claims derived from data

*What Does the Data Science and Literacy Act of 2023 Do?*

The bill creates a voluntary program administered by the US Department of Education to enable K-16 educational institutions to apply for grant support to:

- Increase student access to data science and data literacy instruction
- Provide professional development for teachers and essential learning material for data science, data literacy, and statistics
- Address equity gaps in and expand access to data science and data literacy education and STEM courses more generally

*Benefits of the Bill. The Data Science and Literacy Act of 2023 Would:*

- Address workforce needs. Employers throughout the country have demonstrated an overwhelming need for employees with data science and data literacy skills
- Prepare students to make informed decisions. Given the ubiquity of data, data literacy is critical for making personal daily decisions and for understanding the role of data in addressing societal concerns
- Expand existing initiatives. Various programs have early promising returns, including professional development in data science education and increased availability of data science certificates and associate degree programs
- Expand awareness, access, and support for students from underrepresented groups. The bill would help students from underrepresented groups access careers in data-intensive fields, many of which are among the [fastest growing](#) and [highest rated](#) jobs in the US