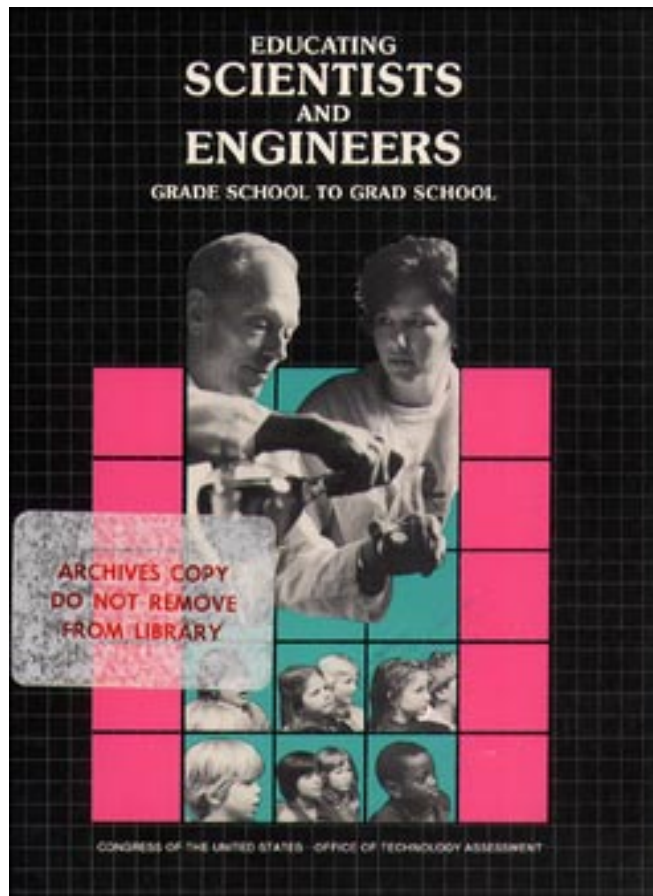


*Educating Scientists and Engineers: Grade  
School to Grad School*

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## Foreword

The Nation relies on scientists and engineers to conduct research and development, teach, and meet the technical needs of industry and society. Ensuring an adequate supply of versatile and well-trained people poses several challenges to America's formal education system, from elementary school through graduate school. The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology asked the Office of Technology Assessment to analyze the factors that will affect the supply of scientists and engineers in the foreseeable future.

American schools, colleges, and universities educate the scientists and engineers who replenish the technical work force. This report examines how and why students are drawn toward or deterred from pursuing a career in science or engineering. Schools, families, peers, informal education efforts—such as museums, science centers, special programs, and television—all play a role. The subtitle of this report—Grade School to *Grad* School—emphasizes that many factors and institutions must be understood as all one system.

The advisory panel, workshop participants, and other contributors to this study were instrumental in defining the major issues and providing a range of perspectives on them. OTA thanks them for their commitment of energy and sense of purpose. Their participation does not necessarily represent endorsement of the contents of this report, for which OTA bears sole responsibility.



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This report is dedicated to the memory of Eugene Frankel  
OTA Project Director, December 1984-May 1986

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