

STEM = FUTURE READY: WASHINGTON STEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2017-2019

Washington legislators have a historic opportunity to prioritize the investments that matter most – closing opportunity gaps, bolstering student opportunity and success, and building the robust next generation talent pool urgently demanded by employers. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) is at the heart of these solutions. 2013's HB 1872 authorized a comprehensive initiative to improve educational outcomes in STEM: now is the time to fund this initiative. **The nonprofit Washington STEM recommends catalytic investments to improve STEM capacity and opportunity for youth cradle to career.**



EXPAND ACCESS TO COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Need: Computer science— the ability to code, create algorithms, and analyze big data –is a core component of many of our state's hottest jobs. It is foundational to many other fields, both analytical and artistic.

The \$2 million 2015 state investment in computer science education matched with a \$2 million private investment provided **computer science education access to 11 percent (118,524) of Washington students. The other 89 percent of Washington students deserve state funded computer science learning opportunities.**

Solution:

- Triple the K-12 computer science education 1:1 public-private grant program (\$6M in Governor's budget proposal)
- Washington STEM commits to secure and align matching funds to double state investments
- Focus on access for underrepresented, low-income, and rural students
- Provide technical assistance and training for grantees
- Evaluate and share best practices; create models for scale

Impact: Allow 50 percent (500,000+) of Washington students to access computer science education, while accelerating the path to 100 percent access statewide.



CONNECT STUDENTS WITH CAREER GOALS AND PATHWAYS

Need: Most young people in Washington, especially youth of color and from low income or rural communities, do not have access to the career connected learning experiences that foster engagement in school and interest and preparation for high-demand careers.

Employers, educators, and community organizations need support to deliver at scale high-quality internships, job shadows, design challenges, youth apprenticeships, expanded learning opportunities, and technical training.

Solution:

- Create a 1: 1 public-private career connected learning fund to engage and connect students with the new economy (\$6M in Governor's budget proposal)
- Washington STEM commits to secure and align matching funds to double state investments
- Focus on access for underrepresented, low-income, and rural students
- Support educators with professional learning and industry and environmental design challenges aligned to science standards
- Incubate and expand successful regional programs; create models for scale

Impact: 50,000 students across the state will benefit, with success measured by increased interest in high-demand careers, increased high school graduation rates, and increased completion of training credentials such as youth apprenticeships and internships. Aligned regional efforts and scalable best practice models will create a systemic approach for fostering career interest and preparation among youth statewide.

CRADLE TO CAREER STEM PRIORITIES



START STRONG

Washington should ensure **every student starts strong** by investing in high-quality early learning

- Expand access to high-quality preschool for low-income three and four year olds (ECEAP)



GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL INSPIRED AND PREPARED

As Washington steps up to fully fund K-12 basic education, **targeted and equity-focused investments** will ensure new state dollars drive better outcomes: closing opportunity gaps and preparing students for a successful future

- Triple the K-12 computer science education grant program through a 1:1 public private matching fund
- Create a 1:1 public-private career connected learning fund to expose and connect students to the new economy
- Fund Career and Technical Education with priority for high-demand fields of study
- Continue capital investments to provide students access to cutting edge STEM classrooms and labs
- Expand allowable uses of learning assistance funds to support STEM
- Sustain and increase expanded learning opportunities (ELO)
- Direct basic education funds to drive equity



COMPLETE A FUTURE READY DEGREE OR CREDENTIAL

Washington should also focus on **increasing opportunity and attainment** for students seeking postsecondary and training credentials in high-demand STEM fields

- Expand successful MESA community college pilot
- Allow students seeking two-year degrees and credentials in high-demand STEM fields to utilize Washington State Opportunity Scholarships (WSOS)
- Increase capacity and support for technical, two- and four-year high-demand STEM degrees and credentials, including the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) Apprenti Registered Tech Partnership Apprenticeship
- Fund the State Need Grant