



WASHINGTON STEM | 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Washington STEM supports expanding student opportunity through P-20 STEM education and career connected learning. This legislative agenda outlines public policies that our data and research indicate drives equity and opportunity for Washington students, particularly students of color, girls and young women, students from low-income backgrounds, and students from rural communities.

Expand Career Pathways

Washington students, particularly students from underserved communities, will benefit from access to career connected learning programs that prepare them for high-demand, family-sustaining careers in Washington.

- Support increased capacity for regional STEM Network efforts to advance career connected learning through business, community, education, and government collaborations by supporting a fair and competitive grantmaking process.
- Support regional career guidance and navigation.
- Support data and measurement for career connected learning initiatives.

Expand Statewide Data and Measurement Capacity

Support transparent, timely, and clear data collection, connection, and sharing about the Washington education system and workforce in order to measure impact, effectiveness, and outcomes for students.

- Expand the capacity of the Washington State Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) in data linking and matching, data visualization, governance, and creating a data enclave tool.

Support STEM Education Infrastructure

- Increase the Computer Science Education grant funding by \$4M for a total of \$6M over the biennium and establishing these grants as multiyear grants.
- Expand capital STEM education funds from \$12.5M to \$20M to develop or improve STEM teaching and learning spaces, including career connected learning spaces.
- Support postsecondary programs increasing education pathways to high-demand STEM careers.
- Support OSPI early learning coordinators who comprise a regionally-led and regionally-specific system that supports professional development, leadership, and capacity building for early learning professionals.

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2019 FULL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Advance policies and programs that set students on the pathway to high-demand, family-sustaining careers.

- Increasing access to career connected learning programs, like internships, apprenticeships, career exploration, job shadows, and more in- and out-of-school career-related experiences;
- Supporting increased capacity for regional STEM Network efforts to advance career connected learning through business, community, education, and government collaborations by supporting a fair and competitive grantmaking process;
- Supporting career guidance and navigation supports and data and measurement for career connected learning;
- Increasing access to computer science education from K-12 through postsecondary by funding the computer science education grant program at \$3M per year and establishing these grants as multi-year grants, creating support and incentives to expand access to computer science education for pre-service teachers, supporting computer science coordinators across the state, and requiring every school to offer a course or instruction in computer science;
- Increasing dual-credit opportunities aligned with high-demand family-wage career pathways;
- Supporting other programs that expand career connected learning for students, including expanded learning opportunities, increased K-12 CTE funding, a middle school career pathways course starting students on High School and Beyond, flexible youth apprenticeship models, and increased number of high school counselors; and
- Supporting postsecondary programs increasing education pathways to high-demand STEM careers, including investments that allow postsecondary leaders to work collaboratively with K-12 leaders to build clear handoffs within high-demand sectors.

Advance policies and programs that prepare students of color, girls and young women, and students from rural and/or low-income communities for success through a strong STEM education.

- Increasing leadership and system capacity for providing impactful and equity-focused Next Generation Science Standards education, including leadership support for the Governor's innovative Climate Science education initiative, through increased funding for Leadership Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) from \$356K to \$600K;
- Supporting regional STEM Network programs that engage underserved students in STEM education and career pathways experiences; and
- Supporting statewide programs that support underserved students, including Washington College Promise, Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, Washington MESA, and supporting funding for underserved students to participate in Washington FIRST programs.

Advance policies and programs that deliver high-quality early learning, with a focus on early math and STEM education.

- Supporting OSPI early learning coordinators; who comprise a regionally-led and regionally-specific system that supports professional development, leadership, and capacity building for early learning professionals, particularly when it comes to closing early math opportunity gaps;
- Incorporating early STEM into key early learning systems;
- Supporting the Early Learning Action Alliance agenda; and
- Supporting professional development in early STEM for early learning educators.

Advocate for transparent, timely, and clear data sharing about the Washington education system and workforce.

- Working with state agencies to ensure policies and practices around data exchange are effective and accessible;
- Expanding the capacity of the ERDC in data linking and matching, data visualization, governance, and creating a data enclave tool; and
- Supporting a robust and educator friendly workforce and student data platform to inform alignment of K-12 courses with labor market data.

Expand capital STEM education funds from \$12.5M to \$20M to develop or improve STEM teaching and learning spaces, including career connected learning spaces.