



EARLY MATH INITIATIVE

Washington STEM works to create a future where every child in our state has the family, community, and school support necessary to pursue professional lives of their choosing -- lives that benefit them, their families, and their communities.

Early Math is a core initiative for Washington STEM because the road to such lives starts when children are small. Early mathematics learning predicts future performance in STEM disciplines, AND future academic performance and achievement overall. Today, more than 40% of all Washington children enter Kindergarten without crucial early math skills. For children from underserved communities, fewer than half are math-ready when they begin school.

Washington STEM is dedicated to reducing the practical, cultural, and structural barriers that inhibit early math learning. Investing in early math learning for all children today means that tomorrow's adults are better prepared to participate in public life and work in STEM careers that require advanced certification or university degrees.

EARLY MATH FOCUS AREAS

- Promising early math practices from Washington and beyond
- Training and support for P-3 educators (including parents and caregivers) so all adults in a child's life are champions for math learning
- Connections between people and institutions that support early learning (particularly between schools, preschools, families, and community-based organizations)
- Innovative early math program models and learning materials for formal and informal environments
- Data, evidence, and empirical research that can inform teaching and measure progress

WASHINGTON STEM'S CONTRIBUTIONS

NETWORK & STRATEGIZE

Support the creation, growth, and well-being of stakeholder networks with a shared vision and concrete milestones that represent forward progress in early math learning and teaching.

DOCUMENT AND INVESTIGATE

Gather, conduct, and support empirical research, and advance data collection and measurement initiatives to support innovation and impact.

ADVOCATE & COMMUNICATE

Work with elected officials, public agencies, and other stakeholders to create public policies that better support early math learning. Create social media, blog posts, videos, research digests that help educators, families, and the public develop a deeper understanding of early math and greater willingness to support early math learning.

FUNDRAISE & INVEST

Secure new investments for early math learning from public and private funding partners that will support the development of innovative early math resources and programs and spur broader adoption of proven and promising early math programs.

CURRENT PROJECTS

EARLY MATH EQUITY GRANTS

Awards made to nonprofit organizations and public education agencies further the development and scaling of early math programs and resources. All funded projects focus on equity by producing high-quality resources and service models designed with direct feedback from the communities they serve. The grants generate new insights about what works in early math learning and what additional resources are needed.

WASHINGTON EARLY MATH COALITION

Organizing and leading a statewide early math leadership council that brings together nonprofits, state education agencies, and members of the business and philanthropic communities. The Council identifies barriers and coordinates activities that improve early math across Washington. The long-term goal is to improve low income and minority student performance in early math by 30-40 percent.

ROAD MAP REGION EARLY MATH LABORATORY

With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Washington STEM is working with the Puget Sound Educational Service District, University of Washington, and school districts and community-based organizations in south King County on a community-wide approach to early math that focuses on removing structural barriers. Washington STEM shapes strategy as part of the Cross-Agency Core Team and leads the evaluation of the effort.

EARLY MATH ATTITUDES TRAIN-THE-TRAINER MODEL

Working with Education Northwest and IMPAQ International on a research-based early math train-the-trainer program, including a set of animated multi-media portraits of proven early math teaching strategies.

ON THE HORIZON

EARLY MATH HUB

Develop a collection of high-quality early math resources for formal and informal environments. Washington STEM will host the HUB, which will be jointly curated and used by stakeholders who support early math learning – including P-3 teachers, parents, and care providers.

EARLY MATH INNOVATION AND EQUITY GRANTS

Make additional grants to support early math innovation and scaling grants. Additional investment in this area has the potential to support important new work and help take proven resources and practices to scale.

SHINING A LIGHT ON EARLY MATH

Washington STEM will create and execute a robust communications push focused on early math. The effort will include social media content, blog posts, videos, live events, and talking points that early math colleagues can use to communicate about the importance of early math.

EARLY MATH INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE

Washington STEM will organize a multi-day event that will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders from across the state (educators, parents, policymakers, etc.) with selected guests from the national and international early math community to learn, work, and plan together. The Institute will feature ground breaking work inside WA and innovations and resources in early math from across the country.

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