The Pacific Mountain Region is home to growing healthcare, wood products, education, and construction industries, spanning from Olympia to Westport. The region is made up of 44 school districts, 39 of which are members of the Capital STEAM Network. The Network’s business, education, and community partners are working to close credential attainment gaps, especially for students of color and students from low-income families. They aim to increase the number of local students who become teachers, construction apprentices, wood products sector workers, and healthcare professionals, which combined have 1,944 annual projected openings over the next five years.
The Opportunity: A Strong Demand for STEM Talent

With an annual total employment of over 5,500 in the region, the wood products sector offers family-wage jobs in forestry and logging support, wood window and door manufacturing, and paper manufacturing. In Kalama, high school science teacher Chris Stone teaches a Natural Resources class using an Advanced Forestry Framework. He developed the dual-credit course in partnership with the Pacific Education Institute (PEI) and Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council to help students gain forest management skills. Advances in manufacturing, such as the development of cross-laminated timber and other mass timber products, should result in a rapid growth and demand for wood products.

Pacific Mountain Region Supply-Demand Projections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>2018 Projected Credentials Earned</th>
<th>2026 Entry-Level Job Openings Above a Family-Sustaining Wage</th>
<th>King County Surplus - Entry-Level**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Formal Education</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Diploma or Equivalent</td>
<td>2,858</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1,894 jobs requiring work experience*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Years or Less</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>62 jobs*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Years or More</td>
<td>1,187</td>
<td>1,706</td>
<td>1,715 jobs*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By supporting more students to be on track to earn a high-demand credential, the Capital STEAM Network and partners will ensure that up to 4,377 family-sustaining*** (those that pay a regionalized wage of $46,970 or more a year) are available to local young adults looking to start their career in the Pacific Mountain Region.

*Jobs requiring related work experience, and/or on-the-job training, would generally not be immediately available to high school graduates and be more competitive with a greater number of eligible applicants.

** The King County surplus represents a proportion of the surplus jobs that could be supplied by students from the Pacific Mountain Region. The surplus is the result of fewer King County originating students than annual projected job openings in King County.

*** Family-sustaining regionalized wage is defined as the full-time wage needed to support a household of 2 adults (1 working) and 1 child, using the MIT Living Wage Calculator.

Opportunities in Wood Products Sector

With an annual total employment of over 5,500 in the region, the wood products sector offers family-wage jobs in forestry and logging support, wood window and door manufacturing, and paper manufacturing. In Kalama, high school science teacher Chris Stone teaches a Natural Resources class using an Advanced Forestry Framework. He developed the dual-credit course in partnership with the Pacific Education Institute (PEI) and Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council to help students gain forest management skills. Advances in manufacturing, such as the development of cross-laminated timber and other mass timber products, should result in a rapid growth and demand for wood products.
**KINDERGARTEN MATH READY (2018)**

68% of 5,305 Pacific Mountain Region children entering kindergarten are math ready compared to 66% of 79,072 children statewide.

**3RD GRADE MATH (2017)**

59% of 5,420 of Pacific Mountain Region third graders meet grade level math standards compared to 58% of 86,451 third graders statewide.
DUAL CREDIT (2017 9-12TH GRADERS)

43% of 23,735 Pacific Mountain Region high schoolers complete at least one dual credit course compared to 56% of 330,854 youth statewide.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Low-Income</th>
<th>American Indian / Alaskan Native</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black / African American</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Two or more races</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington State</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Mountain Region</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION INDICATORS BY DEMOGRAPHIC

CREDENTIAL ENROLLMENT/ATTAINMENT (CLASS OF 2016)

50% of 5,190 of the originating ninth graders in the Pacific Mountain Region enroll in a postsecondary program and 34% of those originating ninth graders earn a credential by age 26.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Low-Income</th>
<th>American Indian / Alaskan Native</th>
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<th>Two or more races</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington State</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Mountain Region</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION INDICATORS BY DEMOGRAPHIC

Data citations and region-by-region analyses will be posted at www.washingtonstem.org/STEMbythenumbers.

For more information on the Capital STEAM Network and its work in the Pacific Mountain Region, contact Network Director Lorie Thompson at lthompson@esd113.org.
Ready for Kindergarten

While 68 percent of all Pacific Mountain Region kids are math ready by kindergarten, high-quality early learning opportunities need to be more accessible to families of color and those that are lower-income to close math-readiness gaps.

**TBD**

we are determining availability of high-quality early learning for families and supports for professionals in this region

68%

of Pacific Mountain Region children entering kindergarten are math ready

K-12 STEM Learning

Between kindergarten and third grade, math-readiness and skills gaps widen for many students, which is correlated with success in related areas of study. School districts need resources and assistance to remove barriers and create opportunities in STEM for all students.

**TBD**

we are determining the STEM indicators for each school district in this region in partnership with LASER

59%

of Pacific Mountain Region third graders meet grade level math standards

Secondary Pathways

While students in the Pacific Mountain Region are overall less likely to complete dual credit** courses than their peers across the state, students of color and low-income students experience reduced access to and completion of these courses compared to their peers.

**TBD**

we are determining availability of dual credit courses and career pathways programs by type and subject area in this region

43%

of Pacific Mountain Region high schoolers complete at least one dual credit course

Credential Enrollment/Attainment

Of the originating ninth graders across the state, 51 percent enroll and 40 percent complete a credential. While Pacific Mountain Region students enroll and complete at comparable rates, the region is working to expand credential pathways capacity to close opportunity gaps for key student groups.

**TBD**

we are determining local higher education and career training program capacity in this region

50%

of the originating ninth graders in the Pacific Mountain Region enroll in a postsecondary program and 34 percent of those originating ninth graders earn a credential by age 26.

**Dual credit programs give students the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Completion of dual credit coursework is highly correlated with higher education enrollment and completion.**

STEM by the Numbers is a series of regional reports which examines data that tells us about Washington students’ access to credentials and family-sustaining jobs. Together with our partners, we are advocating for and developing regionalized, cross-sector, and longitudinal data. We highlight student outcomes above, and in future publications we will report on systems indicators, like high school course offerings and availability of STEM professional learning and supports.

Data citations and region-by-region analyses will be posted at www.washingtonstem.org/STEMbythenumbers.

For more information on the Capital STEAM Network and its work in the Pacific Mountain Region, contact Network Director Lorie Thompson at lthompson@esd113.org.
REGIONAL TOP INDUSTRIES AND STEM JOBS

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS & NURSES
Annual # of Openings: 428
Credential: Certificate → Bachelor’s
Average Regional Wage: $49,104 → $97,400

WOOD PRODUCTS SECTOR PROFESSIONALS
Annual # of Openings: 204
Credential: Associate’s, Apprenticeship and Bachelor’s
Average Regional Wage: $49,012 → $71,239

CONSTRUCTION & TRADES PROFESSIONALS
Annual # of Openings: 703
Credential: Apprenticeship
Average Regional Wage: $59,088 → $96,541

K-12 TEACHERS
Annual # of Openings: 489
Credential: Bachelor’s
Average Regional Wage: $61,719

CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING IN THE PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION

The Capital STEAM Network piloted STEM Like Me!(SLM), a career connected learning experience that brings together local STEM industry partners, middle school students, and educators to create meaningful, hands-on learning that connects to regionally available STEM careers. The pilot was able to establish a clear link between ecology taught in middle school and the thriving wood products sector in the Pacific Mountain region. The Capital STEM Network plans to continue to expand the program in 2019 to include additional schools and STEAM professions. SLM was first launched by the Mid-Columbia STEM Network in 2015 and has since scaled to 4 other regions in Washington, with over 9,000 students served to date.

By 2030, Washington STEM and our statewide partners aim to triple the number of students of color, students from low-income and rural families, and young women who are on track to earn high-demand credentials and enter family-sustaining careers in the state.