



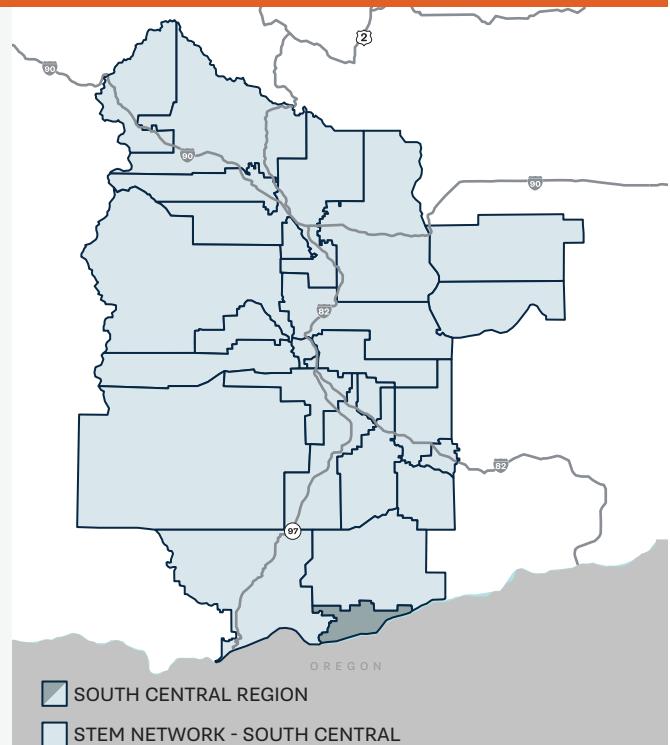
STEM BY THE NUMBERS: SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



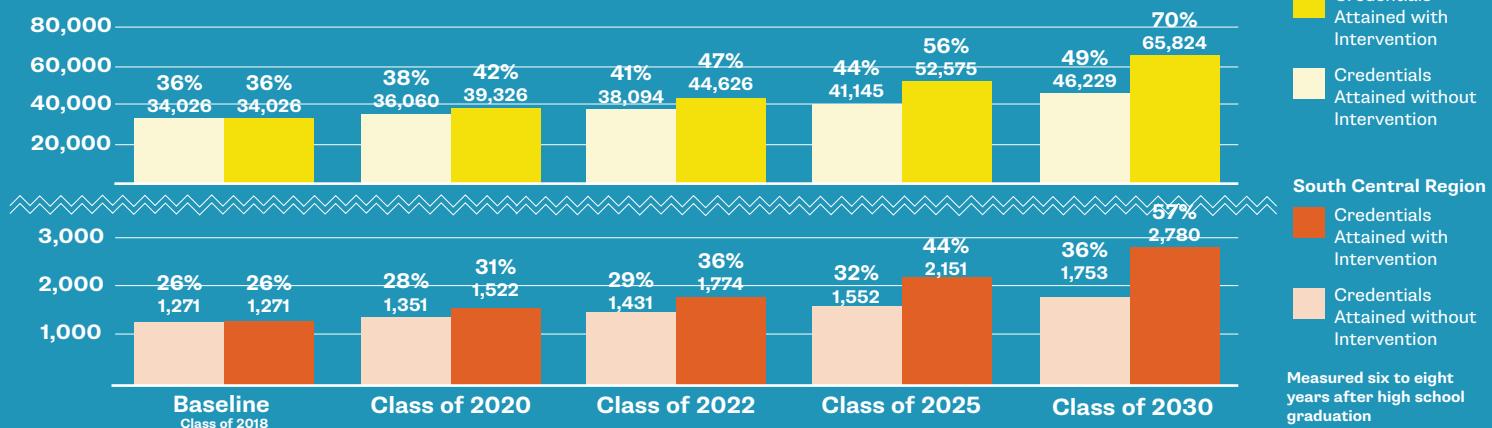
South Central Washington STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics

The South Central Region is home to growing information and technology, healthcare, K-12 education, and agriculture industries, spanning from Ellensburg to Yakima. The region is made up of 26 school districts, 25 of which are members of the South Central STEM 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 IT professionals, trades professionals, industrial maintenance professionals, teachers, and healthcare professionals, which combined have 1,300 annual projected openings over the next five years.

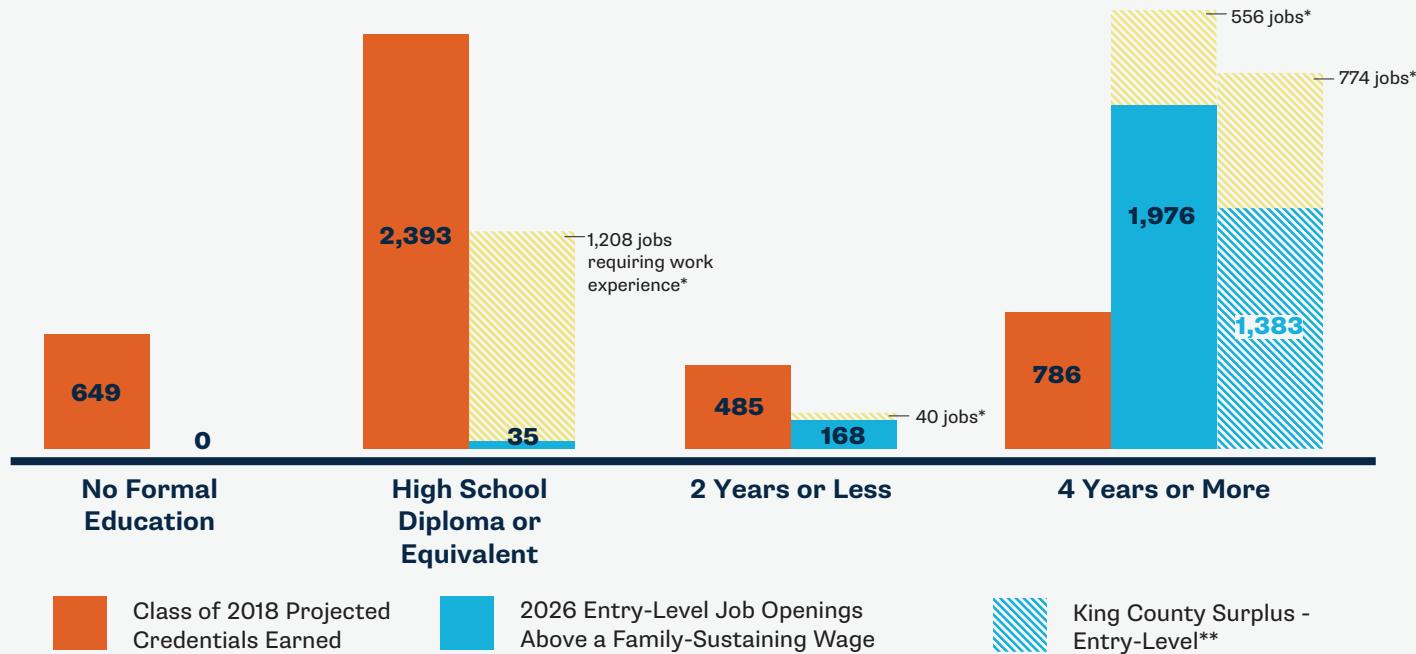


126 MORE CREDENTIALS PER YEAR = REGION ON TRACK



THE OPPORTUNITY: A STRONG DEMAND FOR STEM TALENT

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION SUPPLY-DEMAND PROJECTIONS



By supporting more students to be on track to earn a high-demand credential, the South Central STEM Network and its partners in the South Central Region will ensure that up to 2,179 family-sustaining*** jobs (those that pay a regionalized wage of \$44,857 or more a year) are available to local young adults looking to start their career in the South Central 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.

**Over the next 12 years, there will be a surplus of jobs in King County compared to the number of new, local, credentialed individuals in King County. That means that if other regions throughout the state only attended to their own regional job openings, King County would be sorely under-supplied by Washington state-originating kids. This surplus represents a proportion of the surplus jobs that could be supplied by students from the South Central Region.

*** 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.



CAREER CONNECTED LEARNING IN SOUTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Partnerships between the South Central Washington STEM Network and local school districts, the South Central Workforce Council, the Yakima County Development Association, community organizations, AJAC and regional businesses like Triumph Actuation Systems, Pexco Aerospace, Yakima Chief Hops, Rankin Equipment, Magic Metals are creating new opportunities for area students. New apprenticeships in advanced manufacturing, industrial maintenance, and other high-demand occupations are engaging students in "earn while you learn" experiences to provide a post-secondary credential that will set students up for success while meeting the needs of the South Central Washington economy.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION STEM INDICATORS

Ready for Kindergarten

While 48 percent of all South Central 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

48%

of South Central 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

47%

of South Central Region third graders meet grade level math standards

Secondary Pathways

While students in the South Central 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

36%

of South Central Region high schoolers complete at least one dual credit course

**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.

Credential Enrollment/Attainment

Of the originating ninth graders across the state, 51 percent enroll and 40 percent complete a credential. While South Central 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

43%

of the originating ninth graders in the South Central Region enroll in a postsecondary program and 30 percent of those originating ninth graders earn a credential by age 26.



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 South Central STEM Network and its work in the South Central Region, contact Network Director Mark Cheney at Mark.cheney@esd105.org.

REGIONAL TOP INDUSTRIES AND STEM JOBS

MEDICAL ASSISTANTS & NURSES

Annual # of Openings: 253

Credential: Certificate → Bachelor's

Average Regional Wage:
\$46,840 → \$88,494

CONSTRUCTION & TRADES PROFESSIONALS

Annual # of Openings: 440

Credential: Apprenticeship

Average Regional Wage: \$50,879

K-12 TEACHERS

Annual # of Openings: 336

Credential: Bachelor's

Average Regional Wage: \$59,936

COMPUTER & IT PROFESSIONALS

Annual # of Openings: 89

Credential: Certificate → Bachelor's

Average Regional Wage:
\$48,228 → \$72,989

LOCAL STUDENTS, REGIONAL CAREERS - STEM LIKE ME

In 2019, the South Central STEM Network launched their pilot of 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. In the program's pilot event, 20 STEM professionals from six regional companies worked together to bring hands-on STEM learning to 226 middle students from throughout the region. 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.