



# Policy & Advocacy in 2022: Our Priorities



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# WASHINGTON STEM ADVOCACY 2021 – YEAR IN REVIEW

- ✓ **Early Learning:** Comprehensive Early learning and childcare reform  
SB 5237, *Sen Claire Wilson and Rep Tana Senn.*
- ✓ **Career Pathways:** maintenance of funding for Workforce Investment Education Account funded in Budget. HB 1504, *Rep Frank Chopp*
- ✓ **Broadband expansion & Digital equity** funded in Budget. HB1365, *Rep Mia Gregerson.*
- ✓ **Dual Credit reform for equitable access** HB1302, *Rep April Berg.*
- ✓ **Statewide Office of Equity:** funded in Budget. *Rep Mia Gregerson.*

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES YOUTH PERSPECTIVES



**Gabriella Tosado, Ph.D**

Carbon-Free Electricity Associate at Rocky Mountain Institute

Ph.D in Nanotechnology and Chemical Engineering from University of Washington



**Evelyn Grace Shapiro-Tamez**

Eisenhower High School, '22  
Yakima School District

# WASHINGTON STEM 2022 POLICY COMMITTEE



**Chanel Hall**  
*Director, Tacoma STEAM Network*



**Lorie Thompson**  
*Director, Capital Region STEM Network*



**Jolenta Coleman-Bush**  
*Senior Program Manager Education & Workforce, Microsoft Philanthropies*



**Lindsay Lovlien**  
*Senior Program Officer Policy & Advocacy, Gates Foundation*



**Brian Jeffries**  
*Policy Director, Washington Roundtable*



**Kristin Wiggins**  
*Policy Consultant & Lobbyist, ELAA, ECEAP & Moms Rising*



**Jessica Dempsey**  
*Career Connected Learning Coordinator/CTE Director, Educational Service District 101*



**Molly Jones**  
*Vice President of Public Policy, Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA)*



**Shirline Wilson**  
*Executive Director, Education Reform Now*



**Fernando Mejia-Ledesma**  
*Washington State Lead Organizer, Communities for Our Colleges*



**Kairie Pierce**  
*Lead Workforce Development Director, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO*

# WASHINGTON STEM LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES EVALUATION FRAMEWORK



## EQUITY

- ▶ Does this policy **focus students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, rural students, and/or young women?**
- ▶ Will this policy **advance racial equity** by contributing to closing the opportunity gap?
- ▶ Does the policy **include input** provided by a diverse set of stakeholders and members of communities impacted by the policy?



## IMPACT

- ▶ Does the proposal **enable**:
  - ▶ more students to be employed in high-demand, family-sustaining careers?
  - ▶ access to high-quality early learning, with a focus on early math and STEM education?
  - ▶ transparent, timely, and clear data sharing about the Washington education system and workforce?
- ▶ Is there **evidence and research** that suggests that this proposal is the right thing to pursue?



## STRATEGY

- ▶ Is Washington STEM in a position to successfully act on or influence this issue?
- ▶ Is the policy change viable in the upcoming session? Does it have bipartisan and bicameral support?
- ▶ Is there a clear vision about what needs to happen legislatively to move the policy issue forward?
- ▶ Is there risk in not including the proposal in our agenda?



# WASHINGTON STEM 2022 WHAT TO EXPECT IN SESSION



**Orlando Cano**

Washington STEM Contract  
Lobbyist

- ▶ Short session: January- March, 2022.
- ▶ Fast paced- 60 days.
- ▶ Supplemental budgets.
- ▶ Foci: COVID recovery, Public safety, Infrastructure & transportation.
- ▶ State revenue forecast *optimistic*.
- ▶ Federal relief funds & infrastructure bill.
- ▶ 2022 election year.



# WASHINGTON STEM 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- ▶ **Systems improvements in Early STEM**

Support the ongoing creation and usage of **State of the Children reports** which provide an in-depth look at the health of our early learning and child care systems

- ▶ **Equitable access to Computer Science**

Increase access to Computer Science by supporting **regional implementation**, and increasing community partnerships & strategic planning working through the Educational Service District regional structure

- ▶ **Annual Reporting on equity in access to Dual Credit**

Enable evidence-based **systems-change in Dual Credit** in Washington state through data disaggregation & accountability metrics

- ▶ **Expansion of career connected learning opportunities (Career Connect WA)**



# Join the Washington STEM Advocacy Coalition

sign up at [washingtonstem.org/advocacy](https://www.washingtonstem.org/advocacy)

**Amplify** collective impact  
**Disseminate** information  
**Empower** smaller orgs and partners  
**Organize** members around key issues  
**Enable** intersectional and evidence-based  
policy





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Council, AFL-CIO*

# WASHINGTON STEM 2022 ISSUES EVALUATED

- **Access to Computer Science**
- **Equity in access to Dual Credit**
- **Systems improvements in Early STEM**
- **Continued expansion of career connected learning opportunities**
- Community based career navigation coalitions
- Strengthening apprenticeships for future workforce (Sen Keiser & Sen Randall)
- Digital Equity Act (Rep Gregerson)