

Washington STEM Legislative Priorities Evaluation Framework

Washington STEM is a statewide education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change, removing barriers to credential attainment, and creating pathways to long-term economic security for historically excluded students. We envision a state where skin color, zip code, income and gender do not predict educational and career outcomes.

Washington STEM can support a proposal if all the following questions are answered affirmatively:

1. Is the proposal primarily focused on students of color, rural students, students living in poverty, and girls?
2. Does the proposal enable access to high-quality early learning, with a focus on early math and STEM education? OR
 - a. Does the proposal enable access experience in culturally relevant, high-quality K-12 STEM learning?
 - b. Does the proposal enable more students to be employed in high-demand, family-sustaining careers?
3. Does the proposal enable transparent, timely, and clear data sharing about the Washington education system and workforce?
4. Does the proposal support increased educational outcomes and credential attainment among priority populations?
5. Is there evidence and research that suggests that this proposal is the right thing to pursue? (please include references).
6. Will the proposal advance racial equity by contributing to closing the opportunity gap?
7. Does the proposal include input provided by a diverse set of stakeholders and members of communities impacted by the proposed policy? Can we advocate for an ongoing feedback loop?
8. Is Washington STEM in a position to successfully act on or influence this issue?
9. Is the proposal viable in the upcoming session? Does it have policy maker support – bipartisan and bicameral?
10. Are we clear about what needs to happen legislatively to move this issue forward?
11. Is there a risk to not including the proposal in our support agenda?

About Washington STEM:

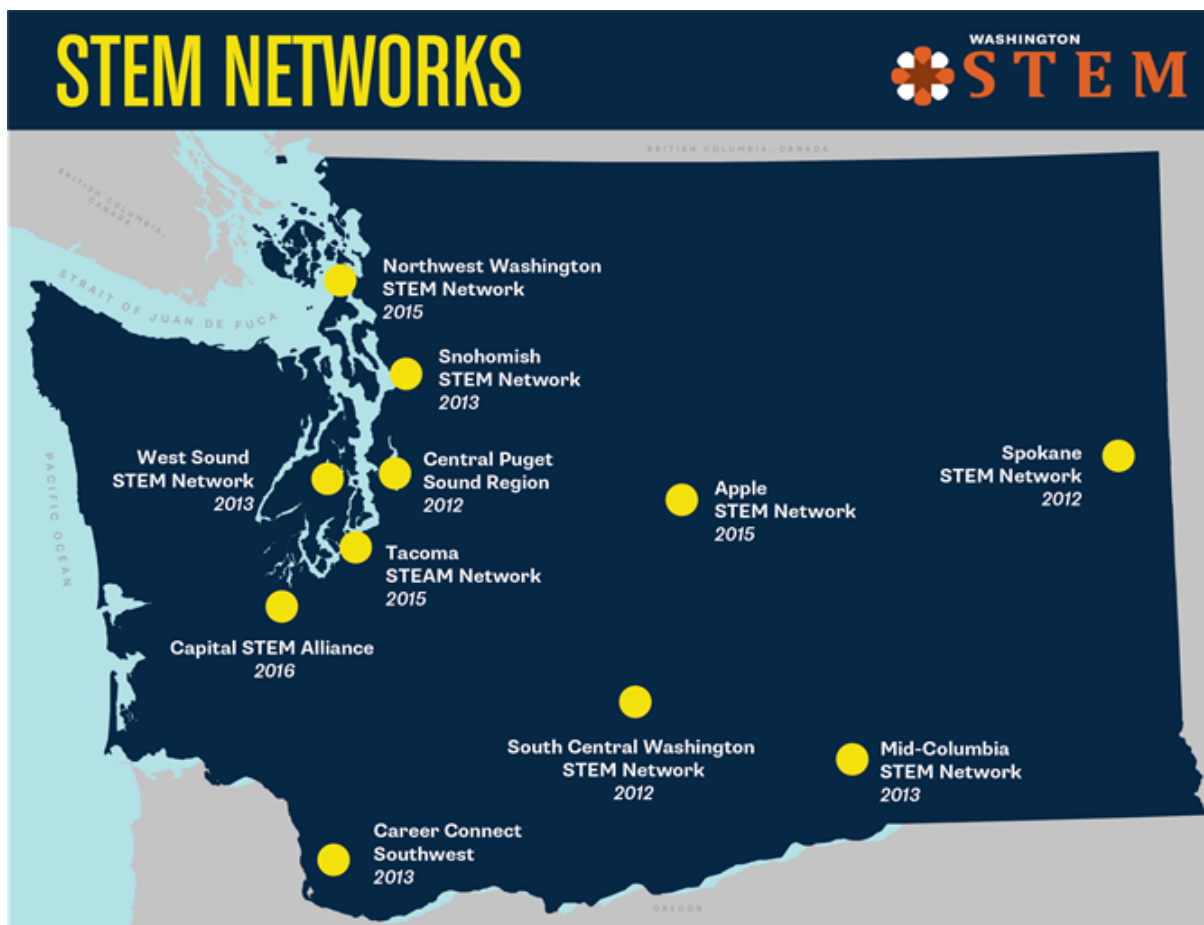
Early Learning: Early Learning sparks curiosity and provides foundational math and science literacy before Kindergarten to give students the best start possible in school and life. Our vision is that every young child develops a positive math identity, participates in high-quality early STEM learning, and has access to the best early learning environments possible

K-12: A strong K-12 STEM experience is a critical component to ensuring young Washingtonians are informed and thriving global citizens equipped for multiple viable career pathways of their choosing. Our K-12 work extends beyond STEM education to include systemic issues that often hinder access. These include dual credit access, enrollment and completion, financial aid awareness and completion, and the teaching workforce

Career Pathways: A robust cross-sector career pathways system is key to preparing students for the most in-demand, high-paying careers in our state. Students in strong career pathways are better positioned to access careers that provide the economic security needed to contribute to the vitality of their families, communities, and local economies. We work with business, education, and community partners to expose and prepare students for exciting careers in high-demand industries in which STEM fuels innovation, economic mobility, and job growth.

Commitment to Equity: Washington ranks among the top states in the nation in the concentration of STEM jobs, but our systems have not equitably or adequately prepared students to take advantage of these opportunities. Furthermore, students of color, rural students, students living in poverty, and girls still lack access or face barriers to these pathways. Washington STEM is working to ensure that all students have equal opportunity to benefit from the transformational possibilities that STEM has to offer.

Partnerships: We collaborate with 10 STEM Networks across the state to identify, scale, and spread effective local solutions and convene cross sector partners in business, education, and the community to solve big problems.



Questions? Please contact Jayme Shoun, Washington STEM Policy Director at jayme@washingtonstem.org