

WASHINGTON STEM

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



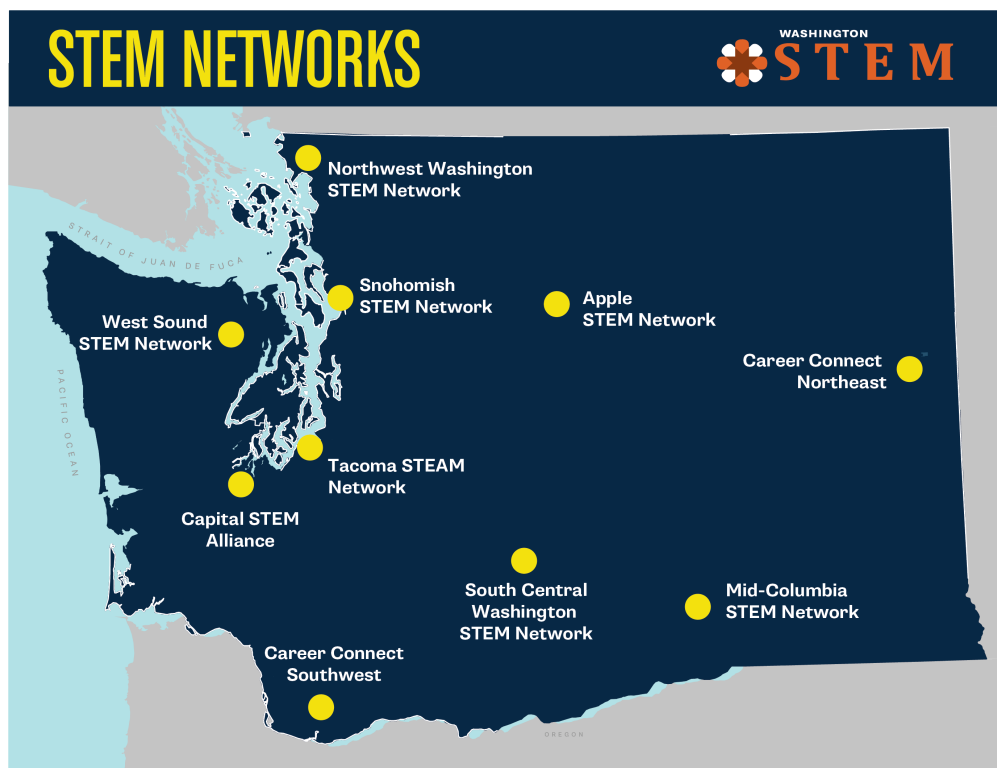
Washington STEM is a statewide education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change, removing barriers to credential attainment, and creating pathways to long-term economic security for historically excluded students. We envision a state where skin color, zip code, income and gender do not predict educational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

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

EARLY LEARNING: Strengthen cross-agency coordination to expand access, use, and sustainability of early childhood education data.

K-12 STEM: Improve system infrastructure and increase access to actionable data statewide to support school districts, students, and families in the transition from K-12 to postsecondary.

CAREER PATHWAYS: Increase funding to the statewide education and employer network, Career Connect Washington, to build and sustain access to equitable Career Connected Learning Programs, increase postsecondary enrollment and boost credential attainment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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ABOUT US:

At Washington STEM, our work revolves around three main strategies:

- **PARTNERSHIP:** We collaborate with regional partners 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.
- **DIRECT SUPPORT:** We provide direct support through targeted community investments, open-source access to data and measurement tools, and technical assistance.
- **ADVOCACY:** We champion transformative solutions through educating decision-makers, storytelling, and collaboration to create the foundation for lasting, equitable change in Washington.

OUR FOCUS:

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 and young women 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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