STEM Education Innovation Alliance

18 August 2026 Meeting

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Objectives:

- **Reconvene and renew the STEM Alliance**
- **Discuss opportunities to leverage the Alliance to advance STEM education in Washington**

AGENDA

Time	Topic	People
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome / Opening Remarks	Daryl Monear, STEM Alliance Manager
10:05 - 10:20	Introductions *Icebreaker: What is your favorite way to recharge after a busy workday?*	All/ Icebreaker led by Sezi Fleming, STEM Alliance Co-Chair
10:20 – 10:35	Governor's Office and WSAC Perspectives on STEM	Dialogue with (moderated by Sezi Fleming): ***Patricia Loera***, Senior Policy Advisor, Higher Education, Governor's Office, and ***Michael Meotti***, Executive Director, Washington Student Achievement Council
10:35 – 11:10	Discussion: What are the key aspects of STEM that Washington should focus on in aligning the state's education system with the STEM labor market?	All Members / Facilitated by Sezi Fleming, Executive Director of Washington MESA
11:10 – 11:25	Discussion: How can we be strategic about the use of the Alliance to advance STEM Education in Washington?	All Members / Facilitated by Sezi Fleming, Executive Director of Washington MESA
11:25 – 11:30	Final Remarks/Next Steps *Are there any additional organizations that we need to include in the Alliance membership?*	Daryl Monear
11:30	Meeting Adjourns	

STEM ALLIANCE MEMBERS			
First Name	**Last Name**	**Organization**	**Position Title**
Rita	Abdel-Malek	CodeAI	Director of State Government Affairs
Mike	Cheever	College Success Foundation	President & CEO
Bish	Paul	Citizen Member	
Michelle	Flowers-Taylor*	Legacy First Partners, LLC	General Partner, Media and Client Solutions
Kevin	Wang	Mentors in Tech	Founder and Program Director
Jolenta	Coleman-Bush	Microsoft Philanthropies	Director of Education, Workforce, and AI Skills
Sue	Kane	North Central Educational Service District | NCW Tech Alliance	CEO
Joanna	Brown	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Associate Director of Secondary Science Education
Kelsey	Gillstrong	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Associate Director of Elementary Science and Content Integration
Patricia	Loera	Office of Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson	Executive Policy Advisor | Higher Education and Workforce Development
Dana	Riley Black	The Museum of Flight	Vice President of Education
Ben	Shapiro	University of Washington Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering	Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering
Sezi	Fleming	Washington Mathematics Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA)	Executive Director
Randy	Spaulding	Washington State Board of Education	Executive Director
Isabel	Muñoz-Colón	Washington State Opportunity Scholarship	Executive Director
Jenee	Myers Twitchell	Washington STEM	Chief Executive Officer | Interim Chief Impact Officer
Mike	Meotti	Washington Student Achievement Council	Executive Director
	* invited		

OTHER INVITED ATTENDEES			
First Name	**Last Name**	**Organization**	**Position Title**
Angie	Mason-Smith	Washington STEM	Senior Director of Programs
Amy	Keltner	Washington Student Achievement Council	Senior Director of Policy & Programs
Isaac	Kwakye	Washington Student Achievement Council	Acting Executive Director
Ellen	Matheny	Washington Student Achievement Council	Assistant Director of Operations
Lucas	Minor	Washington Student Achievement Council	Senior Director of Postsecondary Affordability
Daryl	Monear	Washington Student Achievement Council	Associate Director of Research (STEM Alliance Manager)
Inez	Olive	Washington Student Achievement Council	Director of Adult Pathways
Daniel	Oliver	Washington Student Achievement Council	Director of Research
Rathi	Sudhakara	Washington Student Achievement Council	Associate Director of Strategy & Partnerships

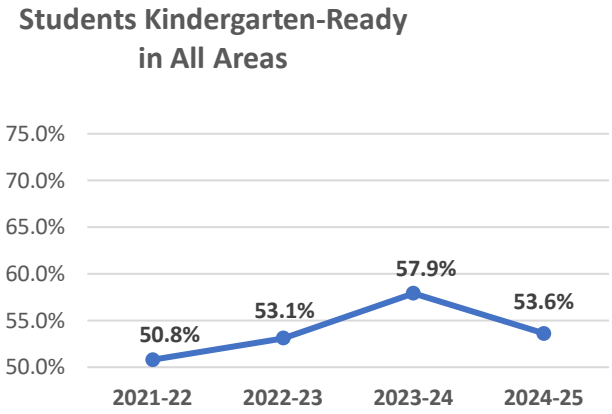
STEM Education in Washington: A Brief Overview

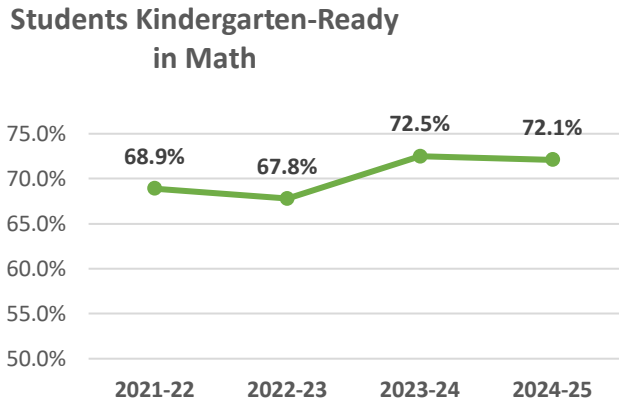
August 12, 2026

STEM education is vital to Washington's innovation-driven economy, and aligning the state's education system with labor-market demand is imperative. The 2025 STEM Education Report Card examines how well the state's education system is preparing students for STEM achievement from early learning and K–12 to postsecondary programs.

Washington remains one of the leading states in the country for STEM employment opportunities. Demand for workers in STEM and STEM-related health occupations[1] in Washington is growing, with the number of jobs projected to grow by over 100,000 over the next 10 years. To prepare for careers in STEM students must get off to a strong start in early learning, meeting standards and staying on track as they progress through K–12 and postsecondary education.

Rates of kindergarten readiness have been rising overall in recent years, but in 2024–25 only 53.6 percent of students were kindergarten-ready in all areas. There is more work to be done to ensure that all children in Washington are ready for kindergarten and prepared for academic success. The percentage of students who were kindergarten-ready in all developmental and learning areas rose from 50.8 percent in 2021–22 to 53.6 percent in 2024–25. The percentage of students who were kindergarten-ready in math rose from 67.8 percent in 2022–23 to 72.1 percent in 2024–25.



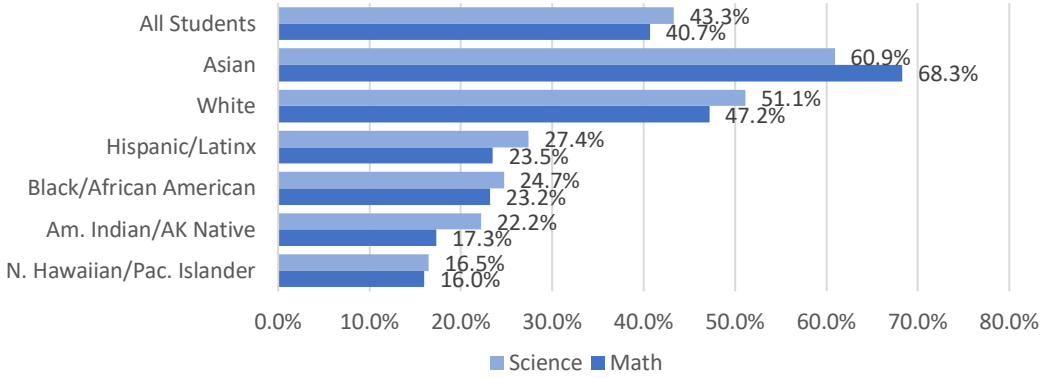


Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Report Card. Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)

The percentage of students meeting standards on K–12 math and science assessments varies by race and ethnicity. Compared with all students, fewer students from some racial and ethnic minorities are meeting standards on math and science assessments (scoring 3

or above on the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in math and Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) in science). Students in those groups may need more support to prepare for college-level academics.

Students Scoring 3 or Above on Assessments in Math (Grades 5, 8, & 10) and Science (Grades 5, 8, & 11), by Race and Ethnicity, 2024-25

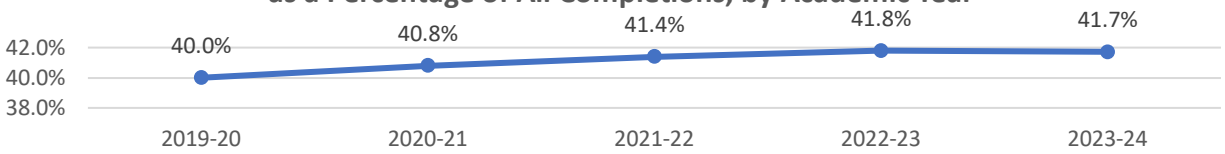


Source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Report Card. Smarter Balanced and WCAS Assessments.

Note: Scoring level 3 or above on the SBA in math and the WCAS in science indicates that a student is on track to be prepared for college-level learning without needing remedial classes.

In recent years, more students have completed postsecondary programs in STEM and health fields, increasing these fields' share of all postsecondary completions. The share of all certificate and degree completions in STEM and health fields increased from 40.0 percent in 2019–20 to 41.7 percent in 2023–24.

Washington STEM & Health Certificate and Degree Completions as a Percentage of All Completions, by Academic Year

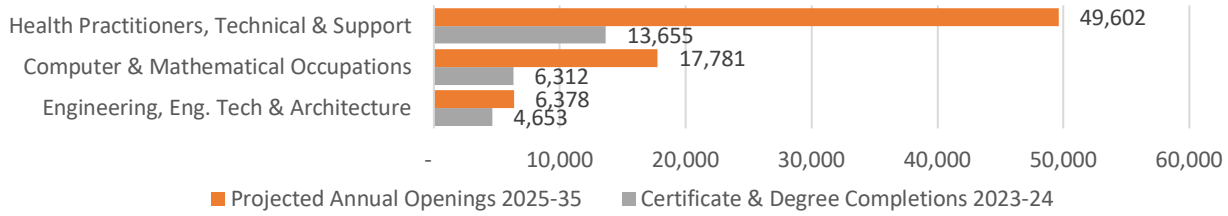


Source: WSAC staff analysis of Lightcast Q4 2025 labor market data.

The STEM education and labor market outlook in Washington shows significant supply and demand gaps in key fields. For example, over the next decade, annual job openings in health and computer/mathematical occupations are projected to significantly exceed the annual number of graduates completing programs in these fields. A smaller but still

significant gap between projected job openings and annual completions is also shown in the engineering field.

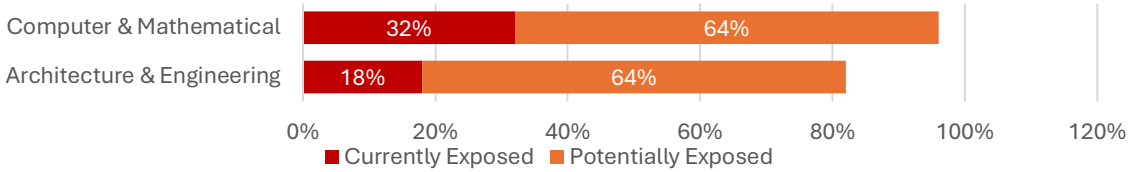
Gaps Between Projected Annual Job Openings 2025-35 and STEM Degree & Certificate Completions (2023-24) in Key Washington Occupational Fields



Source: WSAC staff analysis of IPEDS and Lightcast Q4 2025 labor market data.

The advance of artificial intelligence (AI) may have far-reaching effects on the STEM labor market. A leading AI development firm has recently published a study concluding that AI has the potential to expose an expanding range of tasks in jobs that previously had been considered relatively safe from workplace automation.[2] For example, the study notes that 32 percent of tasks in computer and mathematical occupations are currently exposed to AI and up to 96 percent of tasks in these occupations could potentially be automated. A large percentage of tasks in architecture and engineering occupations could be automated as well.

Percentage of Job Tasks Currently and Potentially Exposed to AI by Key STEM Occupation



Source: Analysis of Anthropic data in Massenkopp et al, 2026 .

These fast-moving developments in AI and the potential effects on STEM jobs need to be monitored closely as the labor market evolves.

References and Notes

[1] This report incorporates an expansive definition of STEM that includes the health field as a key STEM-related area.

[2] Massenkoff, M. and McCrory, P. (2026). Labor market impacts of AI: A new measure and early evidence. https://www.anthropic.com/research/labor-market-impacts