

2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Washington STEM is a catalyst for opportunity, possibility, and prosperity in STEM. We work in partnership with eleven regional networks to provide equitable access to STEM education and pathways to careers in the in-demand fields of science, technology, engineering, and math for all Washington students, especially those furthest from opportunity.

OUR REQUESTS

- ✿ **LASER: Increase funding from \$356K to \$700K to double the number of school districts with strategic planning and science leadership development.**
- ✿ **The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD):** Investment in Early Learning Coordinators at Education Service Districts who partner with our Regional STEM networks.
- ✿ **Career Connect Washington (CCWA):** Support increased funding for program grants for CCW entities who partner with our Regional STEM networks.

WASHINGTON STEM PARTNERS IN ADVOCACY

LASER - Washington State LASER (Leadership Assistance for Science Education Reform) is a state science-education program created in 1999 and led by Washington STEM in partnership with OSPI, ESD's and school districts. LASER plays a key role in ensuring state science leaders foster a community of learning among district leaders and educators, while developing and growing the leadership skills needed to support science/STEM implementation.

The Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) - The AESD Network is uniquely poised to improve school readiness across the state. One important of every Educational Service District (ESD) is to prepare children for kindergarten and ensure success through 3rd grade by increasing access to high quality early learning programs. This work is done in partnership with regional and state leaders focused in early learning.

Career Connect Washington (CCWA) - Career Connect Washington is scaling up high-quality career connected learning opportunities across the state to bridge the gap between student opportunity and regional economic demands. By developing a clear through line from education to career students will be able to access the most in-demand, family-wage careers in their communities.



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ABOUT US

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

- **Strategically Convene and Partner** with 10 Regional STEM Networks, alongside business, education, and community leaders to identify and scale effective local solutions.
- **Provide direct support** through open-source access to data and measurement tools and targeted financial investments.
- **Advocate for change** through educating decision makers, storytelling, and collaboration in order to create the foundation for lasting, equitable change in our state.

OUR FOCUS

Early STEM - We're investing directly in communities, partners, and STEM Networks across the state to foster innovative models of family and community engagement in STEM so that our systems can better serve Washington earliest learners from birth to 8 years old.

Career Pathways - we work with business, education, and community partners to increase access, opportunity, and the necessary experiences students need for high-demand, family-wage careers in health care, agriculture, technology, advanced manufacturing, and other STEM industries.

STEM Networks - STEM Networks are deeply rooted in their communities and provide local expertise to ensure that local needs are met. Each area of our state is unique and STEM Networks know how to drive maximum impact in STEM for every student in their region.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

In Washington, STEM education provides a pathway that leads to economic opportunity in every region of our state. These career opportunities lead to the family-wage careers that are essential to growing Washington communities, and yet, some students in our state face far greater barriers to accessing these careers. Our work primarily focuses on students of color, students living in rural communities, students from low-income backgrounds, and young women.



**800,000 students
across the state
are supported
through STEM
Network activities
and programs.**