

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



ALASKA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Alaska's graduating class of 2017 was **20.1**.

Percentage of all Alaska ACT-tested HS Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	35%	29%	14%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	8%	15%	10%

Alaska College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	34%	29%	12%
White	46%	40%	21%
Pacific Islander	14%	10%	2%
Hispanic	29%	24%	10%
Asian	35%	24%	12%
Native American	9%	5%	1%
Black	17%	14%	3%

The data in this report represent all ACT-tested students in Alaska's 2017 graduating class.

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Alaska

2,261 Alaska students, or 45%, had an interest in STEM, but only 742 (15%) had **both** an expressed interest (they plan to pursue a STEM major or career) and a measured interest (their ACT Interest Inventory score pointed to a STEM field).

Alaska's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 15 students planned to enter math education, and only 3 science education.

ALASKA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Sarah Montalbano

Mat-Su Career and Technical High School, *class of 2018*

In what grade did you first become interested in a STEM field?

Fourth Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

My seventh grade science teacher saw some potential in me, and encouraged me to start a Science Bowl team and participate in Science Olympiad at my middle school. I was hooked, and to this day I still participate in all the biology events I can.

How do you picture your future, in higher education and career?

I will be attending college this fall in order to study molecular biology and computer science. I hope to pursue a career in research and be a professor, so I can pass on my knowledge to other students.

What challenges do STEM students face when following through with their interest in STEM fields?

The greatest barrier to STEM interest is that students don't understand the relevance of STEM to their lives.

ACT thanks STEMPremier for sharing student STEM profiles for this report.

