

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for California's graduating class of 2017 was **22.7**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	55%	46%	31%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	8%	14%	12%

California College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	67%	58%	40%
White	73%	65%	46%
Pacific Islander	54%	41%	24%
Hispanic	33%	24%	11%
Asian	79%	66%	55%
Native American	39%	30%	16%
Black	26%	21%	10%

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

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in California

68,217 California students, or 52%, had an interest in STEM, but only 26,291 (20%) 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).

California's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 273 students planned to enter math education, and only 96 science education.

CALIFORNIA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Aaron Gee

Stuyvesant High School, *class of 2018*

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

Ninth Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

I watched Khan Academy tutorials on electrical engineering, and that sparked an interest in STEM. I took engineering classes at MIT Splash and participated in robotics to pursue my interest.

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

Designing electrical power grids for regions, proposing energy-efficient ideas to car manufacturers, or building innovative technology!

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

I think the classes required for STEM students are quite difficult and often mingle with each other - you need advanced mathematics to solve complicated physics problems, for example. Another challenge is that the STEM field may be too competitive.

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

