

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for DC's graduating class of 2017 was **23.7**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	59%	54%	41%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	5%	10%	10%

District of Columbia College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	67%	67%	52%
White	92%	83%	71%
Pacific Islander	100%	100%	0%
Hispanic	56%	50%	34%
Asian	84%	84%	66%
Native American	50%	0%	0%
Black	24%	18%	7%

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

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in DC

603 District of Columbia students, or 35%, had an interest in STEM, but only 191 (11%) 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).

DC's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 1 student planned to enter math education, and 0 science education.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Michaela Kirvan

Georgetown Visitation School, *class of 2018*

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

I first became interested in STEM in eleventh (a little late... I know) grade when my math teacher encouraged me to look into engineering as a future career.

What sparked your interest in STEM?

My math teacher asked if I would be the "team leader" for an international STEM challenge with a partner school in Ghana. Our challenge was sponsored by IREX and Carnegie Corporation and called the World Smarts STEM Challenge. We were posed the challenge



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

I picture myself getting a dual degree of engineering (probably computer or civil) and business. I want to definitely be in the field of engineering and solving problems!

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

As a woman, I think STEM poses the challenge of a highly male-dominated field. I also think that STEM is perceived to be only science-based and lab-heavy, but with my experience in the World Smarts STEM Challenge, I learned that STEM has a much broader reach than hardcore science.

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

