

# The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



## IOWA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Iowa's graduating class of 2017 was **22**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	45%	45%	22%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	10%	18%	13%

### Iowa College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	38%	39%	19%
White	49%	48%	24%
Pacific Islander	22%	9%	4%
Hispanic	24%	24%	10%
Asian	51%	47%	31%
Native American	23%	35%	15%
Black	14%	15%	4%

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

### Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Iowa

11,154 Iowa students, or 48%, had an interest in STEM, but only 4,343 (19%) 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).

Iowa's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 73 students planned to enter math education, and only 42 science education.

# IOWA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

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## Cheryl Blackmer

Ballard Community Senior High School, *class of 2020*

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

Seventh Grade

### **What sparked your interest in STEM?**

The first time I ever used a microscope, in my seventh grade life sciences class, sparked my interest in STEM. I had discovered a whole new world looking at microorganisms!

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

I can picture myself becoming a virologist, microbiologist, or infectious disease specialist.

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

I find the lack of opportunity for kids who do not go to larger, science-savvy schools fairly evident. While it is possible to do well in the STEM field in a small school, it is difficult to find teachers or other students highly interested in STEM.



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

