

# The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



## KENTUCKY STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Kentucky's graduating class of 2017 was **20**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
<b>Met Benchmark</b>	30%	31%	13%
<b>Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark</b>	8%	15%	9%

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

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	27%	29%	10%
White	34%	35%	16%
Pacific Islander	13%	24%	7%
Hispanic	23%	22%	7%
Asian	55%	45%	30%
Native American	13%	16%	4%
Black	11%	11%	3%

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

### Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Kentucky

24,571 Kentucky students, or 48%, had an interest in STEM, but only 8,063 (16%) 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).

Kentucky's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 137 students planned to enter math education, and only 45 science education.

# KENTUCKY STEM STUDENT PROFILE

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## Caroline Orange

Western Hills High School, *class of 2018*

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

Eighth Grade

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

I used to hate math and science, but my eighth grade STEM teachers pushed and empowered me to excel in those areas. They helped me believe that I was intelligent and capable.

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

Chemical Engineer

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

As a woman in STEM, I feel that stereotypes and lack of early STEM education limit students like me. My ideas are often dismissed because they come in a feminine voice and I used to hate STEM largely due to the lack of education; that is a HUGE problem.



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



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