

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



MASSACHUSETTS STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Massachusetts's graduating class of 2017 was **25.3**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	75%	65%	48%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	6%	13%	15%

Massachusetts College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	76%	67%	50%
White	77%	67%	49%
Pacific Islander	50%	43%	36%
Hispanic	55%	46%	29%
Asian	89%	73%	66%
Native American	62%	62%	35%
Black	47%	32%	18%

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

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Massachusetts

10,168 Massachusetts students, or 49%, had an interest in STEM, but only 4,167 (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).

Massachusetts's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 23 students planned to enter math education, and only 15 science education.

MASSACHUSETTS STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Flanagan Waldherr

Amherst College, *class of 2021*

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

Seventh Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

To some extent, it probably runs in the family. Despite his limited formal education, my grandfather worked as a modelmaker for Sears and my father and uncle both went to school for engineering.

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

Ideally, I would like to work in robotics, since it combines electrical and mechanical engineering with computer science--all topics I have enjoyed in my limited exposure to them. In any case, I hope to have a job with as much "hands-on" time as possible.

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

Based on my own experiences in high school, I think STEM students are less challenged today by being left wanting for more STEM-focused classes, but facing outdated course requirements which may leave them resenting other topics.



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



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