

# The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



## SOUTH DAKOTA STATE REPORT

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

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	49%	46%	23%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	10%	16%	15%

### South Dakota College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	36%	38%	15%
White	55%	52%	26%
Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%
Hispanic	34%	31%	16%
Asian	57%	48%	31%
Native American	8%	8%	2%
Black	21%	17%	5%

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

### Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in South Dakota

3,663 South Dakota students, or 55%, had an interest in STEM, but only 1,484 (22%) 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).

South Dakota's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 25 students planned to enter math education, and only 14 science education.

# SOUTH DAKOTA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

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## Hannah Williams

University of South Dakota, *class of 2020*

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

Sixth Grade

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

My father is an endangered species biologist, and seeing his enthusiasm for the field of biology initially sparked my interest in STEM. Observing the healthcare conditions at a Jamaican orphanage also led to my decision to pursue a STEM career.

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

I plan to pursue a career in audiology, specializing in cochlear implants.

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

As a female, I feel that gender is one roadblock toward pursuing a STEM career. Females are often looked down upon by professors and male colleagues, making it difficult to find confidence in their future career goals.



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

