

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



VIRGINIA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Virginia's graduating class of 2017 was **23.6**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	60%	56%	36%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	8%	15%	14%

Virginia College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	59%	55%	37%
White	67%	64%	41%
Pacific Islander	56%	63%	25%
Hispanic	51%	45%	27%
Asian	85%	73%	62%
Native American	48%	39%	11%
Black	25%	21%	8%

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

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Virginia

13,692 Virginia students, or 54%, had an interest in STEM, but only 5,388 (21%) 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).

Virginia's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 35 students planned to enter math education, and only 17 science education.

VIRGINIA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Mackenzie Roach

Nansemond River High School, *class of 2017*

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

Eighth Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

Project Lead the Way exposed me to many aspects of engineering, and my chemistry teacher sparked my interest in combining science with innovation for the good of society.

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

Chemical Engineering or Project Management

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

Women grow up in a society that encourages them to become housewives, so they often lack opportunities to try out STEM fields at a young age. People also don't pursue STEM fields because of the tremendous expense of going to a well-known STEM college.



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

