

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



WEST VIRGINIA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for West Virginia's graduating class of 2017 was **20.2**.

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

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	30%	32%	11%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	11%	19%	10%

West Virginia College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	25%	26%	8%
White	30%	33%	12%
Pacific Islander	57%	29%	14%
Hispanic	23%	24%	8%
Asian	61%	54%	36%
Native American	22%	19%	6%
Black	12%	10%	2%

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

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in West Virginia

7,045 West Virginia students, or 59%, had an interest in STEM, but only 2,893 (24%) 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).

West Virginia's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 43 students planned to enter math education, and only 14 science education.

WEST VIRGINIA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Eric Dillon

Mingo Central Comprehensive High School, *class of 2019*

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

Eighth Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

The West Virginia Governor's School for Math and Science taught me how being successful in a STEM field requires both logic and creativity. Before this, I thought that STEM didn't allow for imagination, but now I understand it is entirely the opposite.

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

Computer programmer, sociologist, or college professor

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

For West Virginia students, a lack of opportunity is the main challenge we face when learning about STEM. Other than a few programs that aren't accessible to everyone, there aren't many chances for us to learn about the STEM field, especially early on.

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

