

Some Science and STEM Fast Facts

Washington STEM's January 2013 statewide survey of voters found that:

- 74% of voters support increasing STEM graduation requirements
- 70% of voters think schools expect too little of students in STEM subjects

More info at: <http://www.washingtonstem.org/News-Media/Press-Releases/Statewide-STEM-Poll-Feb-2013>

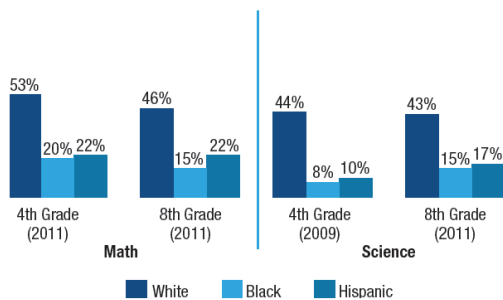
- 35 states require or plan to require 3 or more credits of science to graduate

The STEM Vital Signs Report (2012) for Washington State reports that:

Closing achievement gaps must remain a priority

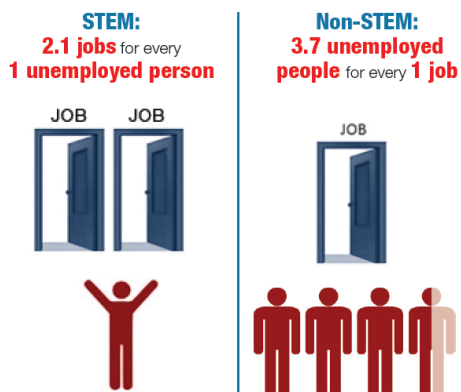
No state has closed the persistent achievement gaps among racial and ethnic groups.

Percentage of students scoring at or above proficient in math and science, 2009 & 2011



STEM SKILLS ARE IN DEMAND

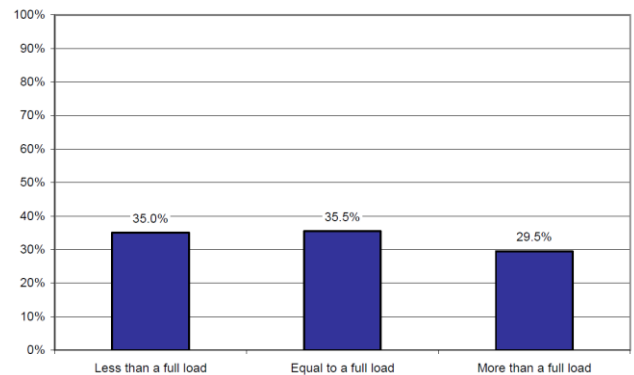
In Washington, STEM skills have stayed in demand even through the economic downturn.



The 2008 BERC Study:

- 54.6 % of students take 3 credits of science, including 2 lab credits.
- Over a third of seniors do not take a full load in high school; a 24 credit requirement would make high school more meaningful.

Percent of 2008 Graduating Students Taking Less Than, Equal To, or a Full Load of Classes



- There are gaps in college-readiness
 - Fewer Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Hispanic students enroll in STEM classes that would prepare them for post-secondary education, than White and Asian students.
 - Fewer males than females enroll in classes that would prepare them for post-secondary education.
 - The SBE-approved 4-credit Career and College Ready requirements would help ensure all students are prepared for the full range post-secondary career and education pathways.

2012 Basic Education Survey results show:

- 100 % of districts are meeting the 3 credits of math required for the class of 2013
- 20 % of districts already require 3 credits of science for the class of 2013
- On average, these districts have higher 4-year graduation rates than districts that require 2 science credits (82.8% compared to 80.9%)