Washington ranks #1 in the concentration of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) jobs, but thousands of these positions go unfilled each year. Washington ranks 49th out of 50 when it comes to having qualified candidates to fill available STEM jobs. Over the next 10 years almost all of the fastest growing industries will require STEM skills, including soft skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and teamwork.

Only 45% of our high school graduates are prepared for college level math, and only 30% are ready for college science curriculum.

Why Expanded Learning?

High-Quality STEM expanded learning opportunities offered afterschool and in the summer keep children and youth learning crucial STEM skills all day and all year. These hands-on and in-depth experiences ignite life-long passions that can become careers.

Whether it's building a robot, coding a satellite, planting a garden, or going out into Washington's beautiful natural landscape, expanded learning programs reach children and youth in all corners of our state, providing engaging and exciting learning that complements the school day.

Let's Build on What Works

% of parents agree that afterschool programs provide opportunities for children to gain STEM interest and skills.

65%

% of low-income parents report that STEM offerings are a critical factor in choosing an afterschool program, compared with 50% of their more affluent peers.

57%

% of children are offered math in afterschool and summer programs.

60%

% of children are offered science and/or workforce skills such as teamwork, leadership and critical thinking.

45%

Expanded Learning Programs Need More Resources to Meet Growing Need

1. EXPAND federal, state, and local support for afterschool and summer STEM programming.

2. INCREASE STEM expanded learning opportunities for youth, particularly girls, low-income youth, youth of color, and youth in rural areas.

3. GROW partnerships between STEM rich institutions, school districts, non-profits, and businesses to create a rich STEM ecosystem.

For more information, contact us at info@schoolsoutwashington.org
(206) 323-2396

2. “America After 3PM, Full STEM Ahead: Afterschool Programs Step Up as Key Partners in STEM Education.” The Afterschool Alliance, www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/STEM.PDF
Inspire Young People to Believe in Themselves

Washington State is rich in STEM-focused industry, yet too few youth are graduating with the skills and knowledge needed to enter STEM careers, especially girls, low-income youth, and youth of color. If these youth can’t see themselves in STEM careers, they are unlikely to chase their passions. Expanded learning programs are the perfect places to engage youth in hands-on ways and show them that STEM is for them, too!

STEM Learning is For Everyone

In 2016, the Foundation for Academic Endeavors operated a summer program at Mount Vernon’s Skagit Valley College, primarily for Latino children and youth whose parents work in the agricultural industry. The summer program exposed participants to environmental science, engineering, and more while helping them to see a future for themselves in college and beyond.

Techbridge Opening Doors for Girls

Techbridge provides STEM-focused afterschool programs in Washington State. First started in the Bay Area, Techbridge focuses on providing girls, particularly in underserved communities, a chance to see themselves in STEM careers through engaging activities ranging from robotics and computer graphics to learning chemistry by mixing their own lip balm. They bring in real scientists and STEM professionals to serve as mentors so girls can see themselves working in STEM fields.

Ask Local Astronauts

In our careers, we have experienced firsthand the ambition, drive, and perseverance it takes to succeed and have our childhood dreams of becoming an astronaut come true.

But we also know that fulfilling your dream becomes much more difficult if you don’t truly believe that this is a career that is open and available to you.

Let’s build more opportunities that open the door for Washington’s children to not only have dreams, but to achieve them as well.

OUR MISSION: School’s Out Washington provides services and guidance for organizations to ensure all young people have safe places to learn and grow when not in school. SOWA is dedicated to building community systems to support quality afterschool, youth development and summer programs for Washington’s children and youth ages 5 through young adulthood.

LEARN MORE: www.schoolsoutwashington.org/pages/stem-learning