Minnesota needs students with STEM skills

June 2018

Jobs related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) power Minnesota's economy and advance our society.

Today's students are our future leaders and we need to ensure they have the skills required to tackle the problems of tomorrow. Investing in afterschool and summer STEM learning programs will help prepare our kids for future jobs, connect them with opportunities that will encourage them to stay in **Minnesota**, engage them in driving innovation, and build a prosperous economy for all of us.

This is Afterschool in Minnesota

Keystone Community Kids

West 7th Neighborhood
St. Paul, Minnesota

150 students served

Keystone Community Kids program is a 21st Century Community Learning Center that provides active, hands-on, and age appropriate STEM and computer science activities for students in grades K-10. The Community Kids program engages students in the scientific method by teaching them to conduct experiments, analyze data, draw conclusions, and communicate their findings. These problem-solving and communications skills are critical to the 21st century workforce. Additionally, the program fuels excitement in STEM learning and careers—84% of participating students reported an increased interest in STEM subjects and careers and in two of the past three years its FIRST LEGO League robotics team has won competition trophies. Participation in programs like Community Kids boosts students' interest in scientific concepts, inspires future careers, and helps young people build the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.

The need for STEM is growing, let's grow with it!

On average there are more than **11,000 STEM-related jobs open in Minnesota** annually, and the demand is growing.

7%

STEM-related jobs in Minnesota are expected to grow by **7% between 2017 and 2027,** compared to 3% for other jobs.

In **Minnesota, only 26% of students graduate with a certificate or degree** in STEM fields.

Afterschool programs can help

Afterschool and summer STEM programs offer unique opportunities to raise awareness about STEM career paths and enable youth to start developing the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

Research shows students that participate in afterschool STEM programs can boost their proficiency in math and science, increase their likelihood of graduation, and inspire them to pursue a career in the STEM fields. But more access to afterschool is needed to ensure that all youth have access to these opportunities.

In the U.S., businesses lose $3 billion annually due to childcare-related lost productivity.

Afterschool is changing that.

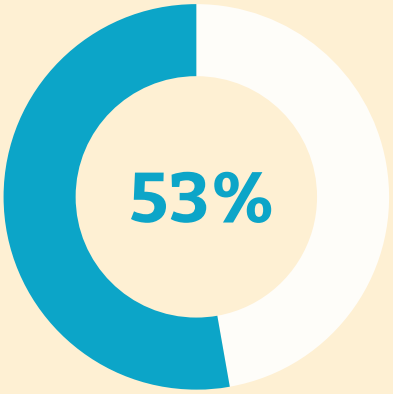
Afterschool programs not only support students—they support working parents and businesses.

77% of Minnesota parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.

71% of Minnesota parents agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) model excels in offering young people high-quality STEM learning opportunities

In Minnesota, 21st Century Community Learning Center grants provide programming to 23,184 students in 108 communities. Grounded in high-quality partnerships between schools and community organizations, 21st CCLC programs expand the types of STEM opportunities available to students. In Minnesota, students eligible for free and reduced price lunch who regularly participate in 21st CCLC programs are 53% more likely to be proficient on math comprehensive assessments than students who do not regularly participate. However, the demand for these programs is so great that three out of every four 21st CCLC grants in Minnesota cannot be funded.



Afterschool programs are a smart investment

Every $1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least $3 by:

1. Increasing kids' learning potential
2. Improving kids' performance at school
3. Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

Citations

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