2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION | WASHINGTON STEM PRIORITIES

Students need strong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to pursue Washington's highest demand career pathways - from building airplanes to monitoring the health of apple crops to researching cancer treatments.

While it's a short session, there are some key opportunities to support high-quality STEM education for all Washington's students – particularly for those that don't traditionally have opportunity, like rural students, youth of color, girls, and students from low-income families.

WASHINGTON STEM, OUR REGIONAL STEM NETWORKS, AND OUR PARTNERS ASK LEGISLATORS TO:

PASS THE CAPITAL BUDGET

The capital budget supports dozens of crucial K-12 and postsecondary STEM projects, including a STEM program designed to modernize STEM classrooms and equipment with priority to schools serving low-income students; funding to update Career Technical Education (CTE) equipment; and funding to update STEM facilities in Skill Centers, community colleges, and four-year institutions across the state. Passing the capital budget means these projects will be able to break ground and increase our education system's capacity and capability to teach high-quality STEM education.

SET WASHINGTON STUDENTS ON THE PATHWAY TO HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Washington STEM supports policies and programs that prepare Washington students to excel in high-demand careers in our state. These policies and programs include, but are not limited to: increasing access to youth apprenticeship and internships in and out of school; fixing the full time equivalent (FTE) calculation and increasing funding to CTE, giving priority to high-demand fields of study; dual credit opportunities; expanded learning opportunities; and increased access to computer science education from K-12 through postsecondary.

INCREASE ACCESS TO STEM EDUCATION FOR UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

We support policies and programs that increase access to STEM education, particularly for underserved students. This work includes, but is not limited to: expanding access to and infrastructure support for high-quality early learning; increased funding for NGSS based science education professional development through LASER; expanding Washington MESA's K-12 programs engaging underserved youth in STEM; and expanding the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship program to students in professional-technical certificate and degree programs as well as programs that address the healthcare skills gap.

We thank the Washington Legislature for their deep engagement with education issues in 2017. Support of these policies and programs will make the education system even stronger for Washington students.

Got questions? Contact Jim Justin at 360-870-2618/ jim@jimjustingov.com or Jesse Gilliam at 206-218-7980/ jesse@washingtonstem.org