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


- 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

- **Math**:
  - 4th Grade (2011): 20%
  - 8th Grade (2011): 15%
- **Science**:
  - 4th Grade (2009): 10%
  - 8th Grade (2011): 15%

**STEM SKILLS ARE IN DEMAND**

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

- **STEM**: 2.1 jobs for every 1 unemployed person
- **Non-STEM**: 3.7 unemployed people for every 1 job

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](image)

- 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%)