

Metro Boston STEM Network

BOSTON PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



Making Boston's Future STEM Savvy

The PIC and the Metro North Regional Employment Board co-convene the Metro Boston STEM Network to unify regional efforts focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, while strengthening overall alignment with industry and early education, K-12, higher education, and the workforce systems.

Historically, the networks operated separately, but have recently come together to more efficiently and effectively advance the goals of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council to strengthen the Commonwealth's pipeline of STEM skilled workers.

Network Goals

The Metro Boston STEM Network is focused on advancing the Governor's and State STEM Council's priorities:

1. Expand Work-Based Learning Programs
2. Expand STEM early college and career pathways
3. Broaden and deepen computer science and engineering initiatives

Our regional network added a fourth goal to focus on the important role out-of-school time plays in stimulating STEM interest and proficiency.

Opportunities to Get Involved

- STEM Network membership
- Internship opportunities
- Guest speakers
- Classroom presentations
- Out-of-school time programs
- School clubs & organizations
- Curriculum development
- Professional development for educators



**For more information,
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Network Goals as Designated by the Massachusetts State STEM Plan 2.0

1. Increase student interest in STEM areas
2. Increase student achievement among all PreK-12 students in order to prepare graduates to be civically and college and/or career ready
3. Increase the number of skilled educators who teach PreK-16 STEM
4. Increase the number of students completing postsecondary degrees or certificates in STEM subjects
5. Align STEM degrees and certificates with the state's workforce needs for a STEM talent pipeline

Baker Administration and State STEM Council focus on expanding STEM Internship Opportunities

The primary challenge facing the Massachusetts innovation economy is sourcing a qualified and skilled workforce. There are more open jobs in STEM fields than there are employees to fill them, and this challenge will only grow as a large portion of the workforce prepares to retire without a sustainable number of qualified replacements.

To address this talent shortage, the expanded MA STEM@Work initiative connects high school students to STEM internships. The solution starts in high school—getting students excited about STEM and providing them with real life experiences. Massachusetts companies can play a key role in helping students while also developing their workforce.

Internships for High School Students in STEM Fields

During 2015-2016, 10,500 Massachusetts high school students interned in a range of industries. The companies who hired them are supported by the state's School to Career Connecting Activities program.

Connecting Activities, working in collaboration with 16 regional workforce development boards, assists with identifying students, developing job descriptions, and supporting student interns.

Last year, only 300 internships were in STEM-related fields, along with 1,000 in healthcare. There's a tremendous opportunity for STEM employers to engage with students.

