

The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



MISSISSIPPI STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for Mississippi's graduating class of 2017 was **18.7**.

Percentage of all Mississippi ACT-tested HS Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	20%	20%	7%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	7%	14%	6%

Mississippi College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	26%	28%	9%
White	32%	31%	12%
Pacific Islander	4%	8%	0%
Hispanic	21%	20%	8%
Asian	56%	42%	30%
Native American	9%	8%	3%
Black	7%	6%	1%

The data in this report represent all ACT-tested students in Mississippi's 2017 graduating class.

Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in Mississippi

17,378 Mississippi students, or 48%, had an interest in STEM, but only 4,772 (13%) had **both** an expressed interest (they plan to pursue a STEM major or career) and a measured interest (their ACT Interest Inventory score pointed to a STEM field).

Mississippi's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 101 students planned to enter math education, and only 20 science education.

MISSISSIPPI STEM STUDENT PROFILE

Hazel Anderson

Oliviet High School, *class of 2018*

In what grade did you first become interested in a STEM field?

Ninth Grade

What sparked your interest in STEM?

My interest in STEM was sparked when I did well in my first high school math class and, during that same year, became interested in biology through labs.

How do you picture your future, in higher education and career?

The career I envision myself pursuing would deal with environmental science research with a math component. I'm not sure exactly what my specialty will be in environmental science, but I hope to discover that through many more years of education.

What challenges do STEM students face when following through with their interest in STEM fields?

The challenges that STEM students face are the stereotypes for different genders, races, and ethnicities. Another challenge students face is the lack of opportunities for students in many secondary education institutions.



ACT thanks STEMPremier for sharing student STEM profiles for this report.

