Increase participation in STEM

Why do we want to do this?

The focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is vital to Western Australia’s future economy and local jobs.

Ensuring students have a broader range of STEM skills means greater opportunities for employment and satisfying careers for our young people.

We know that the jobs of the future will require new and different skills to the current workforce. Right now, 75% of jobs in the fastest growing industries require STEM skills and 90% of jobs will require people with digital skills in the next two to five years. That is why we are encouraging greater participation in STEM — to create more opportunities in these important growing industries.

What do we want to achieve?

85% of Year 12 students completing two or more STEM courses

By 2024

By 2024, have 85% of Year 12 students completing two or more STEM courses and/or STEM related vocational, education and training (VET) qualifications.

Interpreting the results

The percentage of Year 12 students studying two or more Year 12 STEM courses and/or STEM-related VET qualifications has remained consistent at about 74% in the past three years since the introduction of the new requirements for the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) in 2016. STEM courses are defined as:

- Year 12 courses in the Mathematics, Science and Technologies learning areas of the Western Australian Curriculum;
- nationally accredited VET courses identified as being STEM courses by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER); and
- locally accredited VET courses classified as being STEM courses by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

Election commitments

- Investing in Science in Schools (converting existing classrooms to science labs)
- Develop a State STEM Strategy
- Appoint a STEM Advisory Panel
- Investing in our Schools (investing in public school infrastructure and building new schools)
- More Support for Children in the Classroom
- Quality Education in the Regions