

STEM

Our Mission

Mission Statement

Our Vision:

Our vision is that all students in California have access to and obtain the STEM knowledge and skills required for success in postsecondary education, work and their daily lives.

Our Mission:

CSLNet's mission is to build a network of educators, business leaders and other stakeholders committed to establishing the world's best STEM education system so that all California students will graduate from high school with the STEM knowledge and skills required for success in postsecondary education, work and their daily lives, and that more students pursue STEM careers and degrees.

At CSLNet, we firmly believe:

- * All California students can be successful in STEM.
- * All students need and deserve access to high-quality STEM education.
- * STEM education is critical to helping students develop and apply college-ready and 21st century skills relevant to their everyday lives.
- * A fully collaborative network of STEM champions will seed, scale and sustain innovation in STEM education at the local, state and national levels.

What is STEM?

CSLNet believes that STEM education is more than just science, technology, engineering or mathematics; it is an interdisciplinary and applied approach that is coupled with real-world, problem-based learning. This bridging among the four discrete disciplines is now known as STEM. STEM education removes the traditional barriers erected between the four disciplines by integrating them into one cohesive teaching and learning paradigm. Today, new innovations and inventions tend to be made at the boundaries of these four disciplines, where they naturally overlap.

A STEM-literate student is not only an innovator and critical thinker, but is able to make meaningful connections between school, community, work and global issues. A STEM-literate high school graduate can enroll in a college-level course of study in science, technology, engineering, and math without the need for remediation. STEM skills are increasingly necessary to engage in a knowledge-based economy. There is solid evidence to suggest that the fastest-growing and highest-wage jobs in future years will be in STEM fields and all employees will need to utilize STEM skills for problem solving in a wide range of industries.

The Challenge

For decades, innovators and entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley to San Diego and from Hollywood to the Central Valley have fueled California's dynamic growth and established our state as a global hub for innovation.

To maintain California's position as a leading innovation-driven economy in the 21st century, our students must be equipped with the skills and experiences that will prepare them to be leaders in our state's robust economy and diverse, complex society.

However, California lags other states in math and science proficiency, with dramatic achievement and opportunity gaps among California students. While California used to be a national leader in K - 12 and higher education, it now ranks 43rd or lower among all states in mathematics and science proficiency in grades 4 and 8. The education system that once helped propel California's innovation-based economy is losing momentum.

Despite record unemployment, California employers report being unable to find qualified candidates in science, technology, engineering and math. Too many California students are entering the workforce with limited practical STEM experience and critical thinking skills - skills that are increasingly necessary for careers in California's innovation-based economy and essential for an educated citizenry.

CSLNet is answering this urgent call to improve STEM outcomes for California's students by working to advance STEM teaching and learning throughout the state.

Our Goals

CSLNet is working to address California's workforce needs and better prepare our state's students to contribute to a vibrant California economy by:

- * Increasing interest and competencies among all K-14 California students in STEM disciplines, with an emphasis on critical thinking, hands-on learning, problem-based approaches and the use of information technologies.
- * Ensuring all California students are college and career-ready and increasing the number of students who are pursuing STEM-related degrees and careers.
- * Building a network that connects employers, educators, policymakers, funders and businesses, leverages California's STEM assets and develops new capacity to innovate, scale and sustain effective STEM teaching and learning through collaboration and resource-sharing.