



Idaho Out-of-School Network

STEM in Idaho

Access to afterschool and summer programs is not equal in Idaho, especially in rural and low-income communities; in fact, more than 116,000 children in the state would attend a program if one were available. Children in low-income, rural, and BIPOC communities have fewer opportunities; almost 50,000 children home alone and unsupervised between 3-6 pm on weekdays.¹

Idaho businesses cannot find the STEM talent they need mainly due to a lack of student achievement in math and science.

Since 2009, Idaho's 8th-grade math scores have declined. Students of color are the farthest behind in math performance, with only 17% of Hispanic 8th-graders being proficient or above in math in comparison to 40% of white students.²

¹ Afterschool Alliance. 2020. "Idaho After 3PM." <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/gee/Idaho/healthy-futures>
² Education Commission of the States. 2017. "Vital Signs: Idaho." <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED584504.pdf>
³ Ibid

The **Idaho Out-of-School Network (ION)** helps afterschool and summer programs to engage youth of all ages in STEM learning outside of the school day. ION supports mobile STEM labs, professional development and advances STEM in afterschool as an active member of STEM Next's Million Girls Moonshot initiative.

Together women and people of color make up over 50% of Idaho's population, however, they are much less likely to earn STEM degrees or become STEM professionals. This is especially true for careers in computer science and engineering. In fact, if Idaho addressed the gender gap in computer science³, the state would have a dramatic increase in talent.

One of ION's most exciting initiatives is the Think Make Create (TMC) mobile maker space labs, launched in partnership with University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Program 2021. Today, 28 TMC Labs have reached more than 30,000 youth across the state, with a priority focus on underserved and rural areas.

STEM Reach in Idaho Afterschool & Summer

3,899

PROGRAMS

6,922

EDUCATORS

119,008

YOUTH

59,331

GIRLS

75%

YOUTH FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

50%

RURAL YOUTH

37%

BIPOC YOUTH

Engaging More Youth in STEM

Each of the 28 independently operated Think Make Create Labs is tailored to the needs of its community, offering youth opportunities to tinker, create, engineer, and innovate. Thanks to the generosity of many business partners, TMC Labs provide free learning experiences to afterschool and summer programs. Afterschool and summer programs can also apply for TMC mini grants and participate in TMC coaching and training sessions to expand educator capacity.

In addition to training adult educators, ION engages youth participating with TMC Labs as "ambassadors" to present at events, TMC trainings, and serve as mentors for younger youth.



Think Make Create Lab at Nampa Boys and Girls Club

Shifting Adult Practice

ION provides multi- and full-day in-person trainings, direct coaching, online workshops, and other opportunities for educators throughout the state.



Power Up Summit

The annual convening for Idaho's afterschool and summer educators hosted

several presentations that covered topics such as storytelling with data, family engagement, and coding. A panel hosting five young people, including 2023 Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew member, Adeline, gave educators insight into how small shifts in things like marketing programs can make a huge impact on letting girls know they belong.



Adeline, 2023 Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew, Idaho



Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

ION provided training sessions for afterschool

programs using the PBIS framework during the school day to foster students' positive behavioral, academic, social, emotional and mental health development.



Think Make Create Labs

Focused on teaching engaging, hands-on STEM activities to students, TMC Lab trainings offered support around a robust K-8 curriculum that is aligned with state standards and workforce needs.



ION's Learning Academy

An interactive learning environment designed to build capacity for out-of-school

time educators, ION hosted a number of virtual professional development opportunities. Many opportunities included training provided by the Moonshot that focused on building an engineering mindset in youth, and equitable access to STEM for students.

STEM Next's premier initiative, the Million Girls Moonshot, partners with afterschool and summer programs in all 50 states, leveraging the 50 State Afterschool Network, which has access to more than 10 million youth and 100,000 afterschool programs.

The Moonshot equips community and state leaders with resources, toolkits, training, and expert partners to support the expansion of afterschool STEM in urban, suburban, rural, frontier, and Indigenous communities nationwide. The Moonshot raises awareness among educators for what great STEM looks like as well as creates national campaigns that elevate STEM in out-of-school time. Working together, national, state, and local partners are transforming the pathways into engineering, the sciences, advanced manufacturing, and more.

Learn more at www.milliongirlsmoonshot.org