Executive Summary

STEM education is more critical today than ever before. Rapid technological advancements have created opportunities that were once unimaginable, while simultaneously exposing the limitations of outdated education systems. To meet this challenge, Oregon has made strategic investments to reimagine how regional communities engage in STEM learning, preparing students with the skills essential for success in an evolving technological era. This work aligns with a global movement for educational transformation through the STEM Learning Ecosystems initiative. By connecting classroom learning to real-world applications, these efforts strengthen workforce readiness and position Oregon to enhance its economic competitiveness.

In 2015, House Bill 3072 established Oregon's commitment to strengthening science, technology, engineering, & mathematics (STEM) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) as pathways to ensure Oregonians achieve success in high-wage, high-demand careers. Oregon Revised Statutes 327.372 and 326.500, established both the Oregon STEM Hub Network and a competitive CTE Revitalization Grant program. These statutes are designed on a regional model aligning STEM education and career connected learning with workforce and economic development. The legislation also requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the STEM Investment Council (326.500), and the CTE Grants Advisory Committee (ORS 344.075) to report progress on these goals to the Legislature. These reporting requirements are met through this combined report.

The legislation advances three interconnected statewide goals:

1. Improve student outcomes in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics,
2. Increase participation in post-secondary STEM fields of study,
3. and increase the number of Oregon youth who enter high-wage, high-demand STEM professions.

The strategies to achieve these goals include providing funding for a network of Regional STEM Hubs, establishing a grant program to revitalize CTE programs and pathways in K–12 schools, and creating a dedicated STEM grants program. Together, these investments aim to remove barriers to opportunity and build community-based support structures, particularly in rural areas, that advance Oregon's STEM vision: ensuring every student, regardless of background, has access to integrated, transformative learning experiences that lead to meaningful careers and economic mobility.

During the 2023-2025 biennium, STEM investments supported:

- The operations of the 13 Regional STEM Hubs ($6.74M) and STEM Network Infrastructure leveraging an additional $5.2M from external sources.
- STEM Innovation Grants across four strategic areas ($5.5M).
- Thirty-one new CTE Revitalization Grants ($7.63M),
- Expansion and support of 21 new Career and Technical Student Organizations ($789,645); and
- More than 749 CTE Programs of Study through the Secondary Career Pathways grants ($8.01M).

These investments yielded strong results, including **99% utilization of CTE Revitalization Grants** across diverse sectors, such as impactful local projects aligned to regional workforce needs. STEM Hubs provided **professional development for 2,603 educators** and delivered more than **13,000 hours of programming to over 92,000 students,** with initiatives that broaden access to high-demand career pathways. See *CTE Investments Section* and *Reaching our Communities: STEM Hub Stories of Impact.*

This report highlights how targeted CTE and STEM investments enable communities to build sustainable pathways that align with workforce needs. These programs increase STEM outcomes for students and strengthen connections between education, industry, and local communities. In doing so, they help foster long-term economic resilience. Through detailed expenditure data and compelling examples of impact projects, the report demonstrates how strategic investments translate into meaningful opportunities, preparing students for high-demand careers while supporting community sustainability.