

For more Afterschool & STEM information on Tennessee, call:
 Brandon White, Director of Education,
 United Way of Greater Nashville
 Brandon.White@unitedwaygn.org
 615-791-3007 tnafterschool.org



STEM in Tennessee

Access to afterschool and summer programming is not equal in Tennessee, especially in rural and low-income communities. Almost 500,000 children would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them. For every child enrolled in an afterschool program, there are 3 behind them waiting to get in.¹

Jobs in STEM are growing at almost double the rate (17%) than non-STEM professions (9%) in Tennessee, while state business leaders are struggling to find the STEM talent they need to stay competitive.²

Since 2019, math proficiency for 8th grade students in Tennessee has dropped to 25%. Not enough students – least of all students of color – have the math and science learning opportunities to prepare for college and careers. In comparison to white students, Hispanic students score 23 points lower, and Black students 31 points lower in math on average.³

1 Afterschool Alliance. 2020. "Tennessee After 3PM." <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/geo/Tennessee/overview>
 2 Education Commission of the States. 2017. "Vital Signs: Tennessee" <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED584678.pdf>
 3 NAEP. The Nation's Report Card: 2022 Mathematics Snapshot Report: Tennessee Grade 8. 2022. <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/st2022/pdf/2023011N8.pdf>
 4 Ibid

Tennessee Afterschool Network

Through an extensive network of partners, professional development, conferences, and more, the **Tennessee Afterschool Network (TAN)** is at the forefront of expanding STEM learning throughout the state.



TAN is transforming the pathways into engineering, the sciences, and advanced manufacturing. Together with partners, they are working to create equal opportunities to keep children engaged and learning STEM in the out-of-school time hours across the state.

Together women and people of color make up over 50% of Tennessee's population, however, they are much less likely to earn STEM degrees or become STEM professionals, especially in computing and engineering. TAN is working to close these gaps.

As part of STEM Next's national initiative, the Million Girls Moonshot, the Tennessee Afterschool Network is building the capacity of afterschool and summer programs to engage youth in STEM, especially girls and underserved youth.



STEM Reach in Tennessee Afterschool & Summer

1,890

PROGRAMS

3,455

EDUCATORS

123,000

YOUTH

78,600

GIRLS

88%

YOUTH FROM LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

62%

RURAL YOUTH

82%

BIPOC YOUTH

Based on state-level partners' reports of their reach in each of the three program years, adjusted for likely duplication across reporting periods.

Raising Awareness & Expanding Partnerships



STEM Mentors

TAN hosts mentoring events focused on engineering and computer science with STEM role models throughout the state. TAN encourages afterschool programs to replicate mentoring events with local STEM leaders in their communities, including higher education, business, Million Women Mentors, and more.



STEM Events

TAN supports and presents at the **TN Girls in STEM Conference**. TAN also co-hosts the **National Service-Learning Conference** and the Tennessee STEAM Festival that engages youth and families in STEM each year.



Advocacy

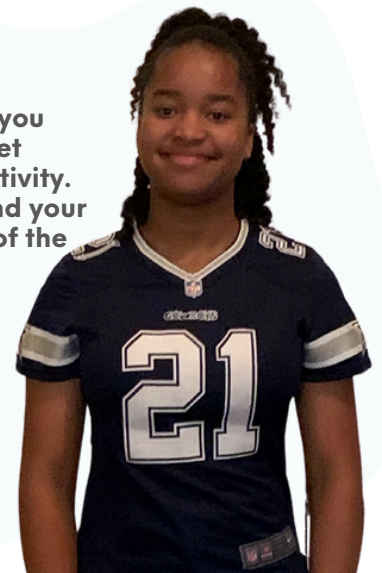
TAN hosts a Day on the Hill to promote the importance of STEM afterschool and the Moonshot with elected officials. TAN also organizes visits with state agencies, the Governor's office, school boards, mayors, and U.S. legislators.

Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew Youth Ambassador

Peyton was the 2024 national Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew representing Tennessee. By sharing her transformational learning in afterschool STEM, Peyton works to inspire youth to pursue STEM learning opportunities across the state and nation.

"For anyone who feels unwelcome in STEM, if you really like STEM don't let anyone bring you negativity. Don't doubt yourself and your knowledge at the end of the day it's only you."

-Peyton, Flight Crew



Engaging Youth in STEM



Youth Voice & Engagement

TAN created a statewide youth advisory council to engage more youth and ensure their voice drives the work. TAN built the Tennessee STEAM Festival, annually engaging youth and families.

Shifting Adult Practice



Professional Development

TAN provides **year-round training at state and local levels** on best practices in science technology, engineering, math, computer science, and more. Additional supports aligned to creating access to STEM for all students, engaging families, and building an engineering mindset in students were provided through expert partners and the Million Girls Moonshot. TAN works with the **Tennessee Girls Collaborative** to share afterschool STEM best practices, engaging girls and under-represented youth, and distributing resources to parents that stimulate conversations at home and promote simple at-home experiments.



Career & Service Learning Platforms

TAN trains afterschool providers on career exploration and service learning platforms that empower youth to lead, create, and apply their knowledge and skills to serve their communities.



STEM Community of Practice

TAN launched a STEM Community of Practice to build the capacity and confidence of afterschool and summer programs to engage youth in STEM, with a focus on fostering an engineering mindset.

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