

Office of Commonwealth Libraries Public Library STEM Survey 2017 Survey Highlights

Respondents:

- 306 responding public library locations in March 2017

STEM Programs:

- 95% or 291 Libraries offer STEM programs, equipment or services for youth or adults
 - Of these, 55% are for youth and 40% are for both youth and adults
- Program target audience age ranges are:
 - 94% or 251 libraries offer programs for elementary school students
 - 72% or 193 libraries offer programs for pre-K children
 - 58% or 156 libraries offer programs for middle school students
 - 32% or 85 libraries offer programs for high school students

School-Library Collaborations:

- 49% of libraries offering STEM programs (138 libraries) base all or some of their programs on PA Academic Standards
- 3% of libraries offering STEM programs (7 libraries) work with local school district STEM instructors to develop programs

MakerSpaces:

- 24% of libraries offering STEM programs (72 libraries) have either MakerSpaces, digital production or creation labs, or STEM exhibit spaces
 - 11% or 34 libraries have MakerSpaces
 - 9% or 28 libraries have STEM exhibit space
 - 3% or 8 libraries have digital production or creation labs

STEM Programming Barriers:

- The chief barriers to providing STEM programming are:
 - 65% lack of funds
 - 65% lack of staff
 - 51% lack of STEM equipment, tools or toys
 - 48% lack of time

Library Staff Training:

- 76% of all respondents say that library staff need more training about STEM programs.
- The top training needs (topic areas) are:
 - 86% need technology training (robotics, digital literacy, devices, etc.)
 - 83% need mathematics training (coding, computational thinking, etc.)
 - 78% need engineering training (construction, 3D printers, etc.)
 - 76% need science training (astronomy, biology, chemistry, etc.)