

# TIER

## The Ivory Education Reformers

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The STEM job force is growing steadily and it is predicted that there will be a larger demand for these workers than the supply within the next decade. STEM jobs account for 15% of the professional labor force, and 6% of the total workforce. With students taking less interest in school, the high demand for workers will leave STEM companies underemployed, which will ultimately hurt the economy for technology based companies.

If this continues to become a trend, the economy will see a downfall in the upcoming years, which could be because of the fact that these students are not educated about college and their career. There is almost four million people who retire every year. That requires another four million to join the workforce each and every year, so that the economy is continually growing. These high school and college students are the next generation, and they will be the ones hoping to develop cures for illnesses. They will be the ones who are designing the next iPhone or the new rockets for space exploration. These students are the future, and if they are not educated about their future life, the nation will suffer.

In order to satiate the current, growing need for skilled workers, a reform of the education system will be needed. This reform will have to engage students from a young age in STEM fields, and encourage participation in classes throughout high school and college curriculums.

Starting in the elementary school, a focus on lab and experiment based science is needed to foster a love of the field. In Middle school, this science approach can continue. In high school, AP style science courses will allow the students to foster interest and prepare for college.

Also in middle school, a rotational introduction to trade courses allows students to find an interest, and through trade courses in high school, turn it into a career. These trade courses would focus on giving the students industry certification, to allow them to directly enter the workforce.