

# Early STEM exposure is key for the future of the workforce

---

[eschoolnews.com/2018/09/28/early-stem-exposure-is-key-for-the-future-of-the-workforce/](https://eschoolnews.com/2018/09/28/early-stem-exposure-is-key-for-the-future-of-the-workforce/)

September 28, 2018

## **e**SCHOOL NEWS *Daily Tech News & Innovation*

x



By Laura Ascione, Managing Editor, Content Services, [@eSN\\_Laura](#)  
September 28th, 2018

A survey reveals that younger STEM workers had greater STEM exposure in early elementary school

More than half of today's adult workers (62 percent) say they were never exposed to STEM-related studies and career possibilities in elementary school, according to [a survey](#) from littleBits and YouGov.

The findings support other research indicating that early exposure to STEM courses helps students stick with these studies even as the material becomes more challenging in high school and college.

U.S. workers with 1-2 years of STEM workforce experience say they had the highest exposure to STEM concepts in elementary school—46 percent of adults in this group experienced a science- or math-related track in school, and 53 percent of this group are working in a job that either entirely or heavily involves STEM.

Much research points to the worrisome prediction that the U.S. will not have produced enough highly-skilled workers to fill STEM jobs in the next few years. Those worries are compounded by the fact that many STEM jobs in the future don't exist today—the Department of Labor estimates 65 percent of today's students will find themselves in such jobs. Students will need an array of STEM skills to tackle those positions.

Two out of 5 Americans believe the STEM worker shortage is at crisis levels, according to results from the fourth annual [STEM survey by Emerson](#), released in August.

[View all on one page](#)

### **About the Author:**

Laura Ascione

---

Laura Ascione is the Managing Editor, Content Services at eSchool Media. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland's prestigious Philip Merrill College of Journalism. When she isn't wrangling her two children, Laura enjoys running, photography, home improvement, and rooting for the Terps. Find Laura on Twitter: [@eSN\\_Laura](#)  
[http://twitter.com/eSN\\_Laura](http://twitter.com/eSN_Laura)

---