In 2001, there were a bit more than 4 million 9th graders. Four years later, 2.8 million of them graduated and 1.9 million went on to two- or four-year college; only 1.3 million were actually ready for college work. Fewer than 300,000 are majoring in STEM fields and only about 167,000 are expected to be STEM college graduates by 2011.

Percentage of students reaching the two highest levels of proficiency

OECD average (496)

Australia (496)

New Zealand (492)

United States (487)

United Kingdom (492)

Hungary (490)

Norway (498)

Poland (499)

Luxembourg (499)

Sweden (494)

Belgium (493)

Czech Republic (499)

Finland (492)

Slovak Republic (492)

OECD average (496)

PISA Math Scores by Countries, 2009
What are STEM Capabilities?