



4.1 P-12 Education

The quality of education in the P-12 system directly affects economic growth and prosperity. In fact, reading proficiently at the end of third grade is a key milestone to success in school and beyond. Students who do not achieve this milestone are four times more likely to drop out of school. SAS advocates for policies and programs that will increase third-grade reading proficiency, such as expanding access to high-quality, full-day pre-kindergarten.

Early reading is critical for all future learning, including studies in high-demand STEM fields. In its effort to increase access to skills in the critical areas of STEM, SAS offers several products and services at no cost to schools.

Curriculum Pathways® and Mobile Learning Apps

[Curriculum Pathways](#) from SAS provides interactive, standards-based resources in the core disciplines for middle and high school students in traditional, virtual or home learning environments. From preschool children to lifelong learners, Curriculum Pathways mobile learning apps engage students of all ages. Curriculum Pathways and apps are available to every educator and learner in the world at no cost. In 2017, nearly 3.5 million teachers and students used the free digital resources for P-12.

SAS® Programming for High School

SAS provides five days of training, all instructional materials, assessments and teaching guides necessary to teach [SAS programming to high school students](#). Students will leave this course with skills that allow them to sit for the SAS Certification exam, a globally recognized certification. These resources are available to educators at no cost.

STEM Career Showcase for Students With Disabilities

SAS partnered with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to create an [annual event](#) where students with disabilities in grades six through 12 interact with college students and professionals with a variety of disabilities who have forged successful career paths in STEM fields. Students network with role models who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge, building innovative products and creating the technologies of the future. The 2017 event was attended by nearly 350 students and chaperones in person and viewed nearly 4,000 times online.

Triangle High Five Math Collaborative

This collaborative effort has helped mathematics teachers identify and engage in highly effective instructional practices

and address disparities in math achievement related to race and income. Schools in the Triangle High Five partnership, which includes five public school districts, are striving to prepare more students to be successful in math and achieve their highest potential. From 2010 to 2017, nearly 800 elementary and middle school teachers each year attended the annual Math Summit at SAS, a two-day professional development event. Although the summit is now being hosted by NC State University, SAS continues to be a sponsor for the 2018 summit.

Support for STEM Careers

SAS STEM Career Day, in conjunction with Hour of Code and Computer Science Education Week, had 80 volunteers venturing into classrooms to generate enthusiasm about careers in STEM. Employees engaged students with real-world examples, shared insights from their own careers and emphasized how school prepared them for success. In 2017, SAS volunteers conducting Hours of Code introduced more than 2,000 students to this national effort.

SAS also supports other organizations devoted to improving the quality of education, including the Institute for Emerging Issues, BEST NC, NC Public School Forum, Business Roundtable and other nonprofit organizations.

SAS Education Policy Priorities

SAS CEO Jim Goodnight led a task force of CEOs from the Business Roundtable to explore the importance of third-grade reading proficiency. That work culminated in a report, *Why Reading Matters and What to Do About It*. The report was released in February 2017 by a separate task force of North Carolina business leaders who are working with Goodnight and SAS to improve literacy rates across the state.

In further support of strengthening reading proficiency, SAS hosted 28 national experts to explore various issues with which policymakers are dealing across the country in determining how to strengthen and expand high-quality pre-K programs. A report from these experts was released nationally at the Brookings Institute in April 2017.

Global Education Initiatives

SAS offices around the world participated in several P-12 projects that supported education initiatives. Here are a few examples:

- In Belgium, the Teach for Belgium program helped more than 5,000 needy children get access to schooling and an introduction to programming.
- In Brazil, the office's donations provided educational sports activities to children living in poor and vulnerable areas.
- In Canada, programs helped local children with weekly reading time, a learn-to-skate clinic and a robotics coding class.
- In Japan, a weekend focused on data science encouraged children to learn programming through CodeSnaps that controlled mini robots.
- In England, an annual outreach program hosted local students to visit the campus and learn how to use SAS software.

