

Stepping Up To Science



Stepping Up To Science (STEPS) is a new program designed to help incoming ninth grade students master the knowledge and skills required to successfully complete their first A-G science course in high school. By providing a preparatory program, we can increase the number of students placed in college-track science courses and the prospect of higher education and career success.

The Need to Improve Science Education

- California ranks 46th in science education in a national study. (NAEP 2009)
- 35% of ninth grade students in Silicon Valley are enrolled in no science or non-college prep science, preventing them from applying to a four-year university in California. (CDE 2009-10)
- In one Bay Area high school district, 66% of ninth grade students are not enrolled in a college-prep science program. (CDE 2009-10)

STEPS Raises the Bar in East Side High Schools

The STEPS program was developed in collaboration with the East Side Union High School District to support their goal of increasing the number of students who are eligible for college. In the 2011-2012 school year, the district changed their default curriculum so that all ninth grade students are required to take a Lab Science course and other college prep classes that ensure eligibility for enrollment at a four-year public university in California. The STEPS curriculum helps prepare students for their first critical Lab Science class in high school.



SVEF Promotes Higher Science Achievement

- Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) offers STEPS as part of our STEM education programs to prepare students for college and careers.
- In the summer of 2011, SVEF partnered with five high schools, serving over 200 ninth grade students.
- STEPS provides students classroom instruction by credentialed high school science teachers.
- Students learn from a standards-based curriculum with hands-on activities customized for their needs.
- STEPS is offered to qualified schools and students who are selected by their teachers.
- The program includes a professional development component for science educators that includes ongoing assessment and discussion of best practices.

"To be prepared for today's workforce, informed about important issues, and able to understand the complex world in which we live, all Americans must have a solid education in science, mathematics, and technology."

-- National Academy of Sciences

Invest in Public Education

Silicon Valley Education Foundation focuses on raising student performance in the critical areas of math and science. To learn more about SVEF, our educational programs and how you can support public education, visit www.sveffoundation.org.