Through an extensive network of partners and advocates, the New Hampshire Afterschool Network (NHAN) is at the forefront of expanding Out of School Time (OST) programming to connect, share, and learn best practices for engaging youth in inspiring STEM experiences. NHAN is transforming the pathways into engineering, the sciences, and advanced manufacturing. Together with partners, they are working to create equal opportunities to keep children engaged and learning STEM outside of school hours across the state.

Together women and people of color make up over 50% of New Hampshire’s population, but, they are much less likely to earn STEM degrees or become STEM professionals, especially in computing. NHAN is working to close these gaps.

As part of STEM Next’s national initiative, the Million Girls Moonshot, the New Hampshire Afterschool Network is building the capacity of afterschool and summer programs to engage youth in STEM, especially girls and under-served youth.

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**STEM in New Hampshire**

Access to afterschool and summer programming is not equal in New Hampshire, especially in rural and low-income communities. Over 67,000 children would be enrolled in an afterschool program if one were available to them. For every child enrolled in an afterschool program, two more are waiting to get in. Jobs in STEM are growing at double the rate (10%) than non-STEM professions (5%) in New Hampshire, yet state business leaders are struggling to find the STEM talent they need to stay competitive.

Since 2019, math proficiency for 8th grade students in New Hampshire has dropped to 29%. Not enough students - least of all students of color - have the learning opportunities in math and science to prepare for college and careers. In comparison to white students, Hispanic students score, on average, 28 points lower.

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**STEM Reach in New Hampshire Afterschool & Summer**

- **450 Programs**
- **1,069 Educators**
- **13,100 Youth**
- **4,050 Girls**
- **60% Youth from low-income households**
- **50% Rural youth**
- **10% BIPOC youth**

Based on state-level partners’ reports of their reach in each of the three program years, adjusted for likely duplication across reporting periods.

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4. Ibid.
Shifting Adult Practice

Professional Development
NHAN works closely with ACROSS New Hampshire to provide training and technical assistance to afterschool and summer programs across the state, including fall and spring conferences, year-round training, with a special focus on STEM and Moonshot practices.

NHAN also hosts a statewide event to recognize and celebrate Out of School Time (OST) Champions.

Career-Connected Learning
NHAN’s primary goals include building an industry-responsive STEM ecosystem, creating connections between OST and in-school career opportunities, and fostering STEM and career learning for youth statewide. NHAN’s solution aims to increase youth access to STEM and career learning, improve program quality and educator capabilities, and connect learning opportunities across spaces and ages in school, out of school, and in the workforce.

Engaging More Youth in STEM

Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew Youth Ambassador

Kayla is the 2024 national Million Girls Moonshot Flight Crew representing New Hampshire.

By sharing her transformational learning in afterschool STEM, Kayla works to inspire youth to pursue STEM learning opportunities across the state and nation.

Back to School STEM Conference
NHAN brings together afterschool and summer programs and community partners to connect, share, and learn best practices for engaging youth in inspiring STEM experiences in OST.

National Collaborative for Digital Equity
NHAN partners with the National Collaborative for Digital Equity to increase digital access for youth and families across the state. NHAN was included in the state’s grant request for federal funding that would include training for afterschool programs to engage youth with digital media and information literacy.

Afterschool & Summer Program Map
NHAN launched the first searchable map of afterschool and summer programs including program locations, number/ages of youth served, and activities offered including STEM. The map is a resource for families to find programs for policymakers and key partners to address program gaps in high need areas.

STEM Next’s premier initiative, the Million Girls Moonshot, partners with afterschool and summer programs in all 50 states, leveraging the 50 State Afterschool Network, which has access to more than 10 million youth and 100,000 afterschool programs.

The Moonshot equips community and state leaders with resources, toolkits, training, and expert partners to support the expansion of afterschool STEM in urban, suburban, rural, frontier, and Indigenous communities nationwide. The Moonshot raises awareness among educators for what great STEM looks like as well as creates national campaigns that elevate STEM in out-of-school time. Working together, national, state, and local partners are transforming the pathways into engineering, the sciences, advanced manufacturing, and more.

Learn more at www.milliongirlsmoonshot.org