

## Demand for math, science jobs only expected to grow

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Aug. 25, 2013 |

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By 2018, American employers will need 3 million highly skilled employees to fill vacancies in math- and science-related jobs.

We're living in a time of innovation and advancement.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are the foundation. Our workforce needs highly educated and skilled talent to keep up with the pace.

In order to fulfill the growing demand for information technology professionals, we know we need to create student interest in science, technology, engineering and math - STEM skills. Unfortunately, only 16 percent of all college students are studying science, technology, engineering or math.

The Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC), a nonprofit, collaborative partnership of community, education, business and government, is working to spark STEM interest in the greater Lansing region. ITEC offers programs to develop the necessary skills to be successful academically as well as professionally.

In 2012, ITEC created the iMath tutoring program, an after-school math tutoring and education program that combines innovative online programming with in-person, one-on-one support.

After an initial assessment, the students can continue the program at their own pace. With a high tutor-to-student ratio, parents can expect their children to be given individual attention. iMath is designed to help students at any level learn in ways that work best for them.

If students succeed in math, they'll be more interested in STEM skills and career paths.

The program was piloted last year at Sheridan Road Elementary and Lewton Elementary for students in grades 4-6. This year, iMath will expand to additional schools in Lansing to give more students the opportunity to grow their mathematics skills.

iMath students who had at least 80 percent attendance for the year showed a grade level increase of 0.84. iMath students also had an average percent mastery of 97.2 percent, which is 17 percent more than what is considered acceptable performance.

For more information about the iMath tutoring program, visit [www.iteclansing.org](http://www.iteclansing.org).

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