# STEM FOR ALL!

#### What We've Learned about Fostering STEM Engagement

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#### 01.

**STEM should be for all students.** However, not all students develop interests in STEM. Gender gaps in STEM interests show up around middle school, especially for fields like computer science and engineering.





**Belonging is the key.** When girls feel like they don't belong in a STEM class, they are less interested in enrolling.



### 03.

Classroom environments send a message. The way that classrooms look and feel can help girls feel that they belong there.





Representation matters.

Get more girls into computer science classes by signing up with friends or with encouragement from guidance counselors. Gender balance makes a big difference in supporting belonging!



#### 05.

#### Stereotypes start early.

The belief that girls are less interested than boys in STEM fields can harm girls' motivation for STEM. Children believe these stereotypes as early as elementary school.



#### **D6**.

Teachers are role models.

Teachers can challenge gender stereotypes by sending messages and sharing stories about how much girls and women enjoy STEM.



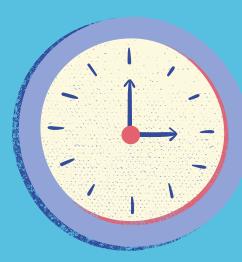
## 07.

**Growth mindsets are needed.** Explain that mistakes are how we learn in STEM, not a sign you don't belong.





Nothing is set in stone. Early experiences matter, but it's never too late. Teachers and schools can increase girls' interest and engagement in STEM.



This infographic was created for Character Lab's Evening of Science, Learning, and Community, November 2023. We thank the schools and students who have participated in our Character Lab studies!