The United States is falling behind in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

- The OECD’s comprehensive survey of 65 nations found the American education system squarely in the middle and that academic performance barely moved over the past decade.
- The country’s stagnation was especially apparent in STEM fields, where it ranked average in science and below average in math.

New Jersey has the resources to stay ahead.

- New Jersey has the nation’s highest concentration of scientists and engineers per square mile, as well as one of the nation’s most educated workforces.
- New Jersey is a nationwide hub for biotech, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices with 17 of the world’s top 20 companies calling the state home.
- New Jersey is known as the “medicine chest of the world.”

But New Jersey also needs to fill 269k+ STEM job slots by 2018.

- Since Thomas Edison, New Jersey has been a leader in innovation.
- A strong STEM economy is critical to fostering innovation, encouraging progress, retaining workers, creating wealth, and making the state a desirable place to live and work.
- STEM economies perform much more strongly than non-STEM economies in leading economic indicators: job growth, employment rates, patenting, wages, and exports.
- STEM jobs not only pay higher wages than the average job, but they are available both to the professional class that develops groundbreaking research and high-skilled, blue collar workers who are crucial to implementation.

The Governor’s STEM Scholars seeks to be a part of the solution.

How? It recruits 50 of the best and brightest students from grades 10–20 and gives them a comprehensive introduction to what the state has to offer in STEM industry, academia, and government.

- Four conferences across the state
- Field trips to research & development facilities
- Meetings with STEM practitioners
- Internships and professional opportunities
- Hands-on learning
- Trip to the 35th Annual Edison Patent Awards
- And more

To become a sponsor or learn more about GSS, visit www.rdnj.org or contact Kim Case at kcase@rdnj.org.