

Mapping school students' aspirations for STEM careers

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Declining enrolments in STEM disciplines and a lack of interest in STEM careers is concerning at a time when society is becoming more reliant on complex technologies. We examine student aspirations for STEM careers by drawing on survey data from 8235 school students in Years 3 to 11 who were asked to indicate their occupational choices and give reasons for those choices. These data are also examined in relation to student SES, gender, prior achievement and educational aspirations. The analysis provides a strong empirical basis for understanding current student interest in STEM and exploring implications for educational policy and practice.