



2026 SUMMER CAMP IMPACT REPORT

184 STUDENTS SERVED

STEM Skills | Career Awareness
Certifications | Workforce
Pathways

Dallas-Fort Worth | Middle School + High School | Summer 2026

184

Students Served

97

Certification Completers

52.7%

of Participants Completed a Certification

Robotics | Drones | Additive Manufacturing | Python | Cybersecurity | Engineering

Prepared for Texas Workforce Commission program closeout and stakeholder reporting

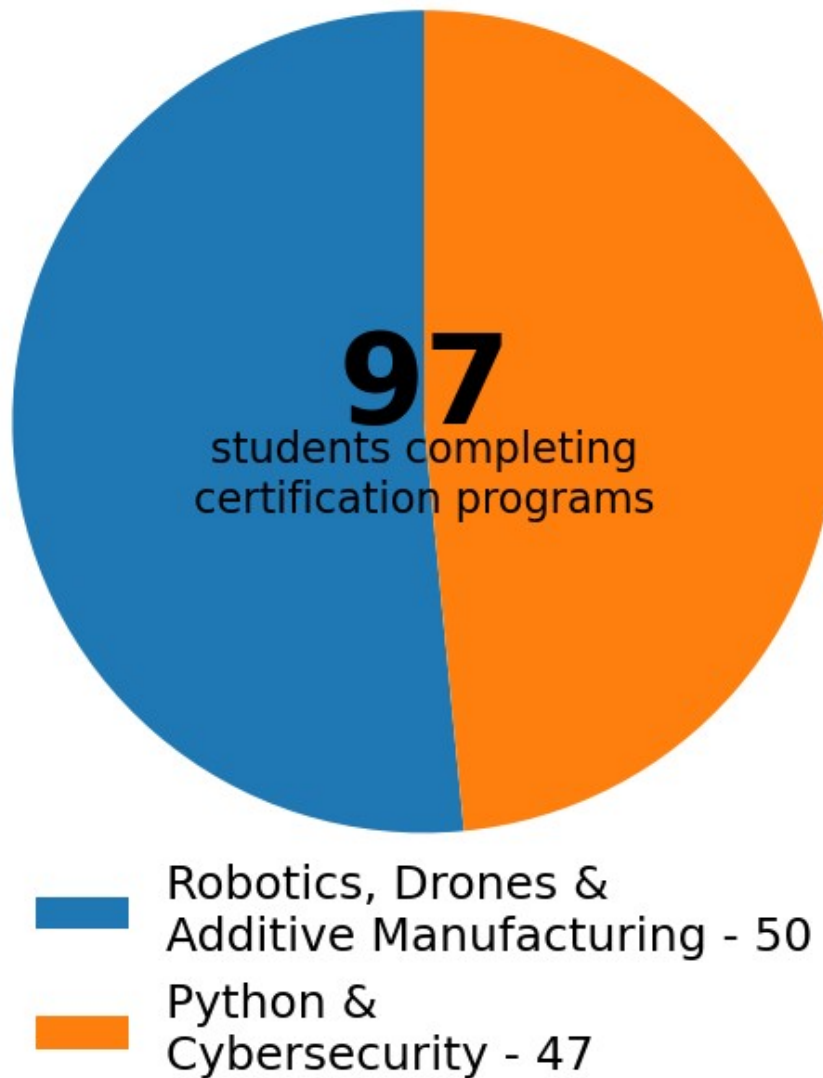
Executive Summary

Illuminate STEM served 184 middle and high school students through its 2026 Summer STEM programming, combining hands-on technical learning, career exploration and industry-aligned certification opportunities. Students were exposed to robotics, drones/UAS, additive manufacturing and 3D printing, engineering and problem solving, Python, cybersecurity and STEM career pathways.

Assessment evidence demonstrates meaningful gains in student-reported STEM knowledge, technical confidence and career awareness. In the UTD assessment, middle school overall ratings increased from 3.72 to 4.37 (+17.4%), while high school ratings increased from 3.39 to 4.32 (+27.6%). The strongest gains were concentrated in robotics, drones and applied technical competencies.

184	97	50	47
Total Students	Certification Completers	Robotics / Drones / Additive	Python / Cybersecurity

Certification Completion



Workforce Development Impact

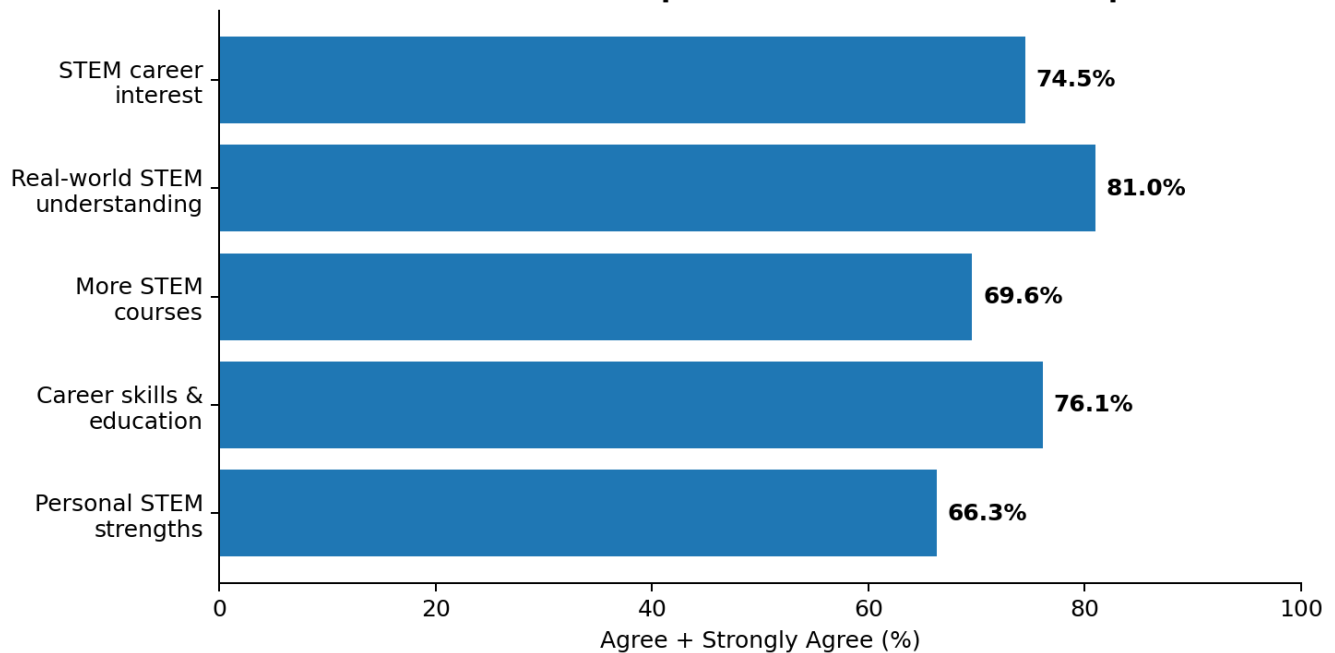
The program moved students beyond STEM exposure toward tangible workforce preparation. Ninety-seven of 184 participants (52.7%) completed certification programs: 50 in Robotics, Drones and Additive Manufacturing and 47 in Python and Cybersecurity. This represents a direct bridge from career awareness to structured technical learning and credential attainment.

Assessment Outcomes

For TWC-aligned reporting, the five evaluation outcomes below are presented as normalized estimates across the full 184-student program population using observed assessment response patterns. These figures are population-equivalent estimates, not a claim that all 184 students completed the identical five-question survey instrument.

Evaluation Element	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither	Agree	Strongly Agree	Positive (4-5)
Increased interest in STEM careers	5	9	33	57	80	74.5%
Understands real-world STEM applications	3	7	25	62	87	81.0%
Interested in taking more STEM courses	6	12	38	53	75	69.6%
Knows more about STEM career skills/education	4	9	31	60	80	76.1%
Better understands personal STEM strengths	7	12	43	55	67	66.3%

Normalized Positive Response Rate - 184 Student Population

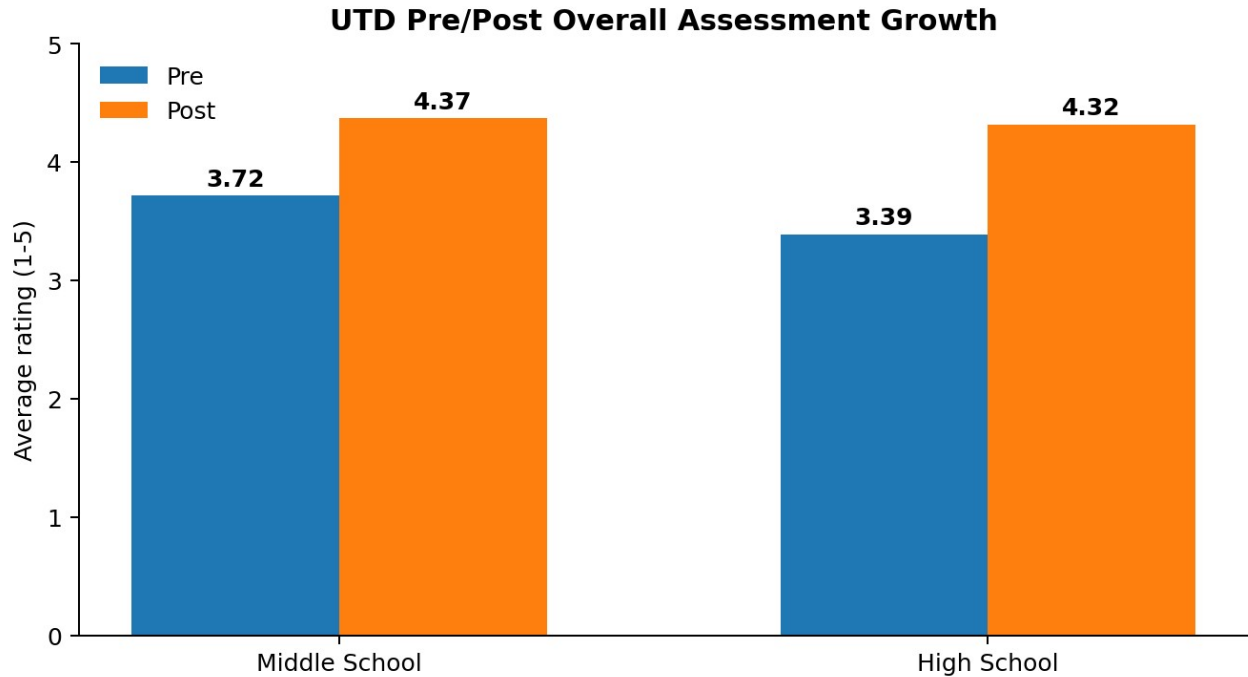


Overall Positive Signal

Across the five normalized measures, 73.5% of responses fall in Agree or Strongly Agree, compared with 8.0% in Disagree or Strongly Disagree. Real-world STEM understanding is the strongest modeled outcome at 81.0% positive, followed by knowledge of STEM career skills and education at 76.1% and increased STEM career interest at 74.5%.

Measured Pre/Post Growth - UTD Camps

The UTD assessment provides direct pre/post cohort-level evidence. The instrument measured STEM Interest, Robotics, Drones, 3D Printing, Engineering & Problem Solving, STEM Career Awareness and Overall Confidence on a 1-5 scale.



Cohort	Pre	Post	Point Gain	Relative Growth
Middle School	3.72	4.37	+0.65	+17.4%
High School	3.39	4.32	+0.94	+27.6%

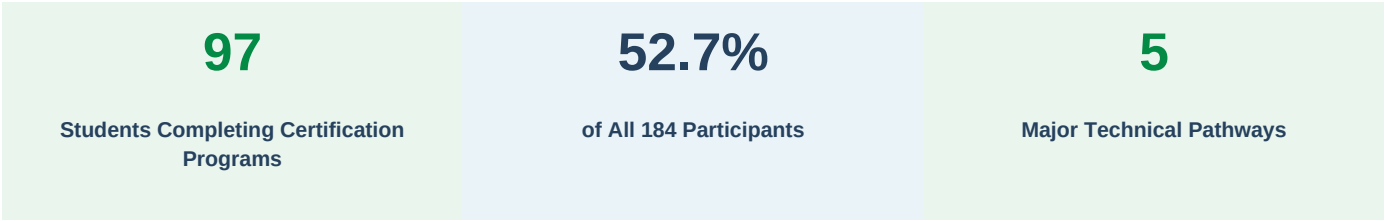
Where Students Grew Most

- Middle School: Drones +1.13, Robotics +0.98, and STEM Career Awareness +0.89.
- High School: Robotics +1.73, Drones +1.44, and 3D Printing +0.88.
- High school confidence working with robotics equipment increased +2.01 points (2.07 to 4.08).
- Middle school understanding of FAA safety guidelines increased +1.45 points (2.97 to 4.42).

Interpretation

The strongest results occurred in applied competencies such as troubleshooting, safe drone operation, sensors and robotics equipment confidence. This supports the program model of hands-on, application-based instruction and suggests that direct technical practice is a key driver of student confidence and career awareness.

Certification & Career Pathway Outcomes



Certification Pathway	Completions	Share of 97
Robotics, Drones & Additive Manufacturing	50	51.5%
Python & Cybersecurity	47	48.5%
TOTAL	97	100%

Texas Workforce Relevance

Students gained early exposure to technical pathways that connect to advanced manufacturing, automation, unmanned aircraft systems, digital fabrication, software and cybersecurity. The combination of hands-on learning and certification training helps students understand that STEM careers include multiple routes - industry credentials, CTE programs, community college, apprenticeships and four-year degree pathways.

The certification outcome is especially significant: more than one-half of all participants progressed from program participation into structured certification learning. This creates a measurable foundation for continued STEM coursework, technical education and future workforce participation.

Program Success Indicators

- 184 students reached through 2026 summer programming.
- 97 students completed STEM certification programs.
- Strong pre/post growth in robotics and drones, particularly among high school participants.
- Increased career awareness and confidence in applied technical skills.
- Hands-on instruction demonstrated stronger gains than general enthusiasm alone.

Lessons Learned & Next Steps

Preserve and expand hands-on learning

Applied technical competencies generated the strongest gains. Future programming should protect substantial lab, build, test and troubleshooting time.

Make career connections explicit

Pair technical activities with employer speakers, workplace examples, role maps and certification pathways so students can connect skills to occupations.

Strengthen assessment completion

Administer post-assessments before students leave the final session and make completion part of program closeout.

Use anonymous student identifiers

Consistent non-identifying IDs will allow true matched pre/post analysis and stronger estimates of individual growth.

Continue certification pathways

Certification opportunities should remain a core component because they translate STEM exposure into a tangible workforce-development milestone.