



# Indiana Department of Education

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Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Leaders

From: Jake Koressel, Assistant Director of STEM and Computer Science

Date: January 7, 2022

Subject: STEM Acceleration Grant Overview and Application (Cohort 6)

**Introduction/Background:** The Indiana General Assembly appropriated funding in Fiscal Year 2022 to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) for STEM Program Alignment. A portion of these funds are to be used to distribute grants to high need schools. The STEM Acceleration Grant is designed to improve elementary and secondary student achievement and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning experiences across the state of Indiana. Through these targeted funds, IDOE will help grantees enhance student success by accelerating students' exposure to and learning in the STEM disciplines. This grant opportunity will support districts that have an interest in accelerating, scaling, or implementing STEM curricula that are:

- Grounded in standards-based STEM content,
- Driven by integrated pedagogical practices, such as problem-based or inquiry-based approaches to learning, and
- Incorporate teacher training and support.

**Program Description:** In order to achieve intended outcomes of the STEM Acceleration Grant program, IDOE will emphasize providing support to schools in implementing the following three priorities for STEM education:

1. Refine STEM pedagogy with research-based best practices
2. Develop STEM leaders and educators
3. Increase access to STEM courses, programs, and resources

The grant will provide funding for programs impacting the 2022-2023 school year and beyond. Funds may be used for stipends, professional development/training, and the acquisition of instructional materials necessary to implement selected STEM curricula. Funds are NOT to be used for any other purpose outside of support for the STEM Acceleration program and may NOT be used to fund employee salaries.

Academic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning has been significant. Most students experienced a moderate to significant level of impact that requires more than one year of supplemental academic support for recovery. As such, this grant opportunity prioritizes proposals that aim to leverage STEM learning as an academic recovery strategy and target populations of students identified as most in need of support. Review additional information on the Executive Summary of the Indiana Academic Impact Analysis [here](#).



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**Amount of Grant Program Support:** STEM Acceleration Grants will be awarded to public school districts or charter schools at an amount up to \$100,000 for the 2022-2023 school year. Awardee funding allocations will be based upon the following scale:

Number of Students Served	Maximum Allocation
< 1,000	\$25,000
1,000 - 1,999	\$50,000
2,000 - 9,999	\$75,000
10,000 +	\$100,000

**Priorities for Funding:** Based on review using the grant rubric, priority in awarding funding shall be given to applications that include:

- Specific training aligned with research-based STEM pedagogical practices, such as problem-based or inquiry-based learning;
- The development of STEM leaders (teacher, building, or district) to support the sustainable implementation of STEM Education locally;
- The expansion of STEM coursework and programs for students, most specifically racially and ethnically diverse student populations; and
- Strong alignment with the mission, vision, and implementation of [Indiana's Priorities for STEM Education](#);

Further consideration will be given to applications:

- Serving students in grades K-12;
- With adequate technological resources and supports already in place;
- That aim to provide access to high-quality, research-based integrated STEM education for all students in the applicable cohort (if multiple elementary or middle schools exist in the district, all schools at the identified level(s) are included in the grant);
- With attention to addressing academic recovery in STEM areas, most specifically for racially and ethnically diverse student populations; and
- That provide a robust sustainability plan that includes scaling the impact of high-quality access to STEM education for all students in the district or identified grade-levels..

**Eligibility:** This competitive grant is open to all public districts and public charter schools that meet the following criteria:

1. Agree to the STEM Acceleration Grant [Statement of Assurances](#);
2. Strong school leadership, district, and community support;
3. Sustainability plan created to continue implementation after grant funds have been exhausted; and



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4. District or charter school level of economically disadvantaged students is greater than the state average.

## Proposal Submission and Review:

- Applicants must submit a signed copy of the full proposal to IDOE using the electronic submission process.
- The copy must include signatures of authorized officials.
- To be considered for funding, completed online proposals must be submitted to IDOE no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 4, 2022.

**Proposals must be submitted online at:** <https://www.jotform.com/form/213184842289968>

*Paper copies of grant applications will not be accepted.* Grant application sections, which will be submitted using the above link, may be reviewed at this [link](#).

**Review Process** All applications will be evaluated using the [STEM Acceleration Grant Rubric](#). The award selections will be based on merit and quality, as determined by points awarded for the criteria section and inclusion of all required information. This is a competitive grant program and funds will be awarded to public districts and charter schools with proposals demonstrating a plan for successful, effective, and sustainable implementation consistent with the goals of [Indiana's Priorities for STEM Education](#).

## Award Administration

- Notification and Award Conditions: The superintendent and/or principal will be notified of the status of the proposal by Monday, February 28, 2022.
- Funds may be used starting May 1, 2022 and will extend to September 1, 2023.
- Reporting Requirements: Each eligible school district or charter school receiving a grant will be required to report semi-annually (at a minimum) to IDOE regarding the progress in meeting the objectives and annual targets described in the proposal. Further information regarding reporting requirements and forms will be made available by IDOE. School districts or charter schools will be notified of any required training or site visits, both in-person and virtual.

For questions regarding the STEM Acceleration Grant process, please contact Jake Koressel, Assistant Director of STEM and Computer Science, at [jkoressel@doe.in.gov](mailto:jkoressel@doe.in.gov).