

To: Superintendents, Principals, and School Leaders

From: Jake Koressel, Computer Science Specialist  
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Subject: STEM Acceleration Grant Overview and Application (Cohort 5)

**Introduction/Background:** The Indiana General Assembly appropriated funding in Fiscal Year 2021 to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) for STEM Program Alignment. A portion of these funds are to be used to improve elementary and secondary student achievement and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects throughout Indiana. Through these targeted funds, IDOE will enhance student success by accelerating exposure to, and learning in the STEM disciplines. This grant opportunity will support districts having an interest in accelerating, scaling, or implementing STEM curricula grounded in problem/project-based or inquiry-based pedagogy, and incorporating teacher training and support. Additionally, STEM career exposure for students should be embedded in STEM programming throughout the K-12 educational continuum.

**Program Description:** In order to achieve intended outcomes, IDOE will emphasize providing support to schools in implementing the three objectives outlined in the Indiana STEM Six-Year Strategic Plan. These include:

1. Improve STEM Instruction: 100 percent of Indiana K-12 teachers will be trained in problem/project/inquiry-based approaches to learning.
2. Scale Evidence-based STEM Curriculum in Classrooms: 100 percent of Indiana K-12 schools will implement integrated, evidence-based STEM curriculum.
3. Foster Early STEM Career Exposure: 100 percent of Indiana's K-12 schools will create and sustain robust STEM-related community partnerships in order to inform curriculum, instruction, and student experiences to encourage college and career readiness.

The grant will provide funding for programs impacting the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. Funds may be used for stipends, professional development/training, and the acquisition of instructional materials necessary to implement selected STEM curriculum. Additionally, funds may be used to increase school/community partnerships to provide early STEM career exposure for students. 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.

**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 2020-2021 school year. Awardee

funding allocations will be based upon the following scale:

<b>Number of Students Served</b>	<b>Maximum Allocation</b>
<b>&lt; 2,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>2,000 - 9,999</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>10,000 +</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

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

- Serving students in grades K-12;
- With adequate technological resources and supports already in place;
- That provide equitable access to high-quality 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 are included in the grant);
- That provide a robust sustainability plan that includes scaling the impact of high-quality access to STEM education for all students in their district; and
- That incorporates fostering community partnerships and early STEM career exposure.

**Program Requirements:** Schools must 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
4. A viable plan to support STEM career exposure through community partnerships.

**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, May 15, 2020.

**Proposals must be submitted online at:** <https://form.jotform.com/200696071939968>

*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 districts with proposals demonstrating a plan for successful, effective, and sustainable implementation consistent with the goals of the Indiana STEM Six-Year Strategic Plan.

### **Award Administration**

- **Notification and Award Conditions:** The superintendent and/or principal will be notified of the status of the proposal by June 5, 2020.
- **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 required training and site visits, both on-site and desktop monitoring.

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