

Call for Proposals for STEM School Designation in the State of Ohio

Background and Purpose

The power of technology has changed economies around the world and created a demand for new skills in which imagination, intellect and invention are essential ingredients. To ensure that Ohio has a place in the 21st century economy, it pursued new ways to develop this type of intellectual capital in all students, and particularly in ways that will support our emerging economic strengths. Ohio's Third Frontier Project was created to foster the commercialization of technology focused in key economic clusters and to create new jobs and economic growth that enhances the quality of life for all Ohioans. While it is understood that technology can lead to faster business growth, higher wages, and a large multiplier effect for the economy, what is unclear is how to ensure that its citizens possess the intellectual capital to lead this technology-based revolution. Ohio must find effective ways to better align education systems to ensure sufficient intellectual, entrepreneurial and technical talent. STEM schools, which partner with higher education institutions and businesses, were created to meet this need.

Objectives

Future economic growth and prosperity in Ohio depends on an aligned education system that supports the state's economic development efforts and helps all Ohio students to become innovators and inventors, self-reliant and logical thinkers and technologically proficient problem solvers. This RFP invites proposals to do all of the following:

- (1) Create a public school (in any of the grades 6 through 12) to help generate a talent base that will establish Ohio as a magnet and global leader in attracting, educating, and producing the next generation of scientists, engineers, and other professionals needed to create tomorrow's innovations for the betterment of all citizens;
- (2) Foster increases in the number of Ohio citizens studying and working in STEM fields.
- (3) Foster increases in all students developing stronger skills in problem solving, innovation, and teamwork.

Eligibility

Proposals may only be submitted by a partnership of public and private entities consisting of at least all of the following:

- A city, exempted village, local, or joint vocational school district or an educational service center;
- Higher education entities;
- Business organizations

How to Submit a Proposal

Each proposal shall include at least the following:

- (1) Cover letter. Cover letters should not exceed one page and must identify one contact person and the fiscal agent by name, address, telephone number and fax.
- (2) Proposal. The proposal, which should be no more than 20 pages in length. Proposals should be double spaced, 1" margins and size 11 font. The 20-page limit does not include the cover letter or letters of commitment.
- (3) Assurances that the STEM school or group of STEM schools will be under the oversight of a governing body and a description of the members of that governing body and how they will be selected;
- (4) Assurances that the STEM school will operate in compliance with Chapter 3326 of the Revised Code and the provisions of its proposal as accepted by the committee;

- (5) Evidence that the school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and project-based curriculum to students in any of grades six through twelve, with the goal to prepare those students for college, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following:
 - a. Emphasizes the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress;
 - b. Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design;
 - c. Includes the arts and humanities;
 - d. Emphasizes personalized learning and teamwork skills.
- (6) Evidence that the school will attract school leaders who support the curriculum principles of offering a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and project-based curriculum to students in any of grades six through twelve, with the goal to prepare those students for college, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following: Emphasizes the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress; Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design; Includes the arts and humanities; and Emphasizes personalized learning and teamwork skills.
- (7) A description of how the school's curriculum will be developed and approved in accordance with section 3326.09 of the Revised Code;
- (8) Evidence that the school will utilize an established capacity to capture and share knowledge for best practices and innovative professional development;
- (9) Evidence that the school will operate in collaboration with a partnership that includes institutions of higher education and businesses;
- (10) Assurances that the school has received commitments of sustained and verifiable fiscal and in-kind support from regional education and business entities;
- (11) A description of how the school's assets will be distributed if the school closes for any reason.

The STEM Subcommittee must receive proposals before 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2014. An electronic PDF should be emailed to Jennifer Williams at jennifer.williams@education.ohio.gov.

Additionally, one original should be submitted to:

Jennifer Williams
Office of Career-Technical Education
25 S. Front Street, Mail Stop 602
Columbus, OH 43215

Applicants are responsible for timely submission of proposals. Proposals become the property of the Ohio Department of Education. Proposals containing all required elements will receive careful consideration. This consideration will be regarding designation as a STEM school in Ohio and will not include any consideration of grant funds.

STEM School RFP Scoring Rubric

Reviewer Name: _____

Applicant name: _____

Please indicate how well the proposal addresses the following RFP criteria.

Rating Scale (5 POINT Maximum)	
Point Value	Explanation
0	Evidence Missing
1	Weak Evidence
2	Some Good Evidence But Weak In General
3	Generally Good Evidence
4	Substantial Evidence
5	Strong Evidence

Criteria	Total Points	Comments
<p>1) To what degree does the proposal provide a thorough description of a strong public/private partnership structure including letters of commitment?</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if a genuine partnership inclusive of key stakeholders is thoroughly documented and there is evidence of enthusiastic support and commitment through letters that are specific and show strong support.</i></p>		
<p>2) Assurances that the STEM school will be under the oversight of a governing body and a description of the members of that governing body and how they will be selected.</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if the proposed governing board meets legal criteria to serve as the designated governing body and the membership reflects experience and expertise to develop a STEM school.</i></p>		
<p>3) Assurances that the STEM school will operate in compliance with section 3326.03 of the Revised Code and the provisions of the proposal as accepted by the committee;</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if the applicant provides written documentation that the STEM school will operate in compliance with section 3326.03 of the ORC.</i></p>		
<p>4) Evidence that the school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and project-based curriculum to students in any of grades six through twelve, with the goal to prepare those students for college, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following:</p>		
<p>a) Emphasizes the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress;</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if there is evidence of inclusion of integrated STEM disciplines with a clear link to their connection to innovation and economic progress in the region.</i></p>		

<p>b) Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design; <i>Top points awarded for evidence of exemplary use of the elements of scientific inquiry and technological design. For example, students use evidence, logic, problem solving and current scientific knowledge to propose explanations and come to understand the breadth of technology, its uses and limitations.</i></p>		
<p>c) Includes the arts and humanities; <i>Top points awarded if the proposed curriculum integrates the arts and humanities with the STEM disciplines so that students come to understand the interdependence of human knowledge.</i></p>		
<p>d) Emphasizes personalized learning; <i>Top points awarded if there are provisions for exceptional individualized learning experiences for students. For example, the IACP and counseling are the basis for planning opportunities for student mentoring, internships, dual credit, etc. and clear plans are developed to connect student support with post high school plans.</i></p>		
<p>e) Emphasizes teamwork skills. <i>Top points awarded if there is evidence of organized learning using teams in which all members produce deliverables, solve problems and earn grades or rewards collaboratively and providing those teams exceptional opportunities to practice teamwork skills.</i></p>		
<p>5) Evidence that the school will attract school leaders who support the curriculum principles of offering a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and project-based curriculum to students in any of grades six through twelve, with the goal to prepare those students for college, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following: Emphasizes the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress; Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design; Includes the arts and humanities; and Emphasizes personalized learning and teamwork skills. <i>Top points awarded if the school leadership selection is dependent upon evidence of successful experience with creating/supporting innovative and effective teaching and learning environments and the school leadership is obviously dedicated to the advancement of STEM education..</i></p>		
<p>6) A description of how the school’s curriculum will be developed and approved in accordance with section 3326.09 of the Revised Code. (Subject to approval by its governing body, the curriculum shall be developed by a team that consists of at least the school’s chief administrative officer, a teacher, a representative of the higher education institution that is a collaborating partner as required by division (C)(7) of section 3326.03 of the Revised Code and a member of the public with expertise in the application of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.) <i>Top points awarded if the curriculum team includes the minimum team members, provisions are made to include additional representation from among the stakeholders and the proposal describes how the team will develop an innovative STEM curriculum.</i></p>		

<p>7) Evidence that the school will utilize an established capacity to capture and share knowledge for best practices and innovative professional development;</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if the proposal includes a full description of capacity and procedures for capturing and sharing best practices and using the school as a base for professional development throughout the region and throughout the state and the professional development is fully aligned with the state's professional development standards.</i></p>		
<p>8) Evidence that the school will operate in collaboration with a partnership that includes institutions of higher education and businesses;</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if there is clear and substantive involvement by both higher education and business partners in curriculum development and in the instructional design process and innovative partnering is designed to provide student opportunities for learning through business-sponsored projects, mentoring, accelerated learning opportunities, modeling, etc.</i></p>		
<p>9) Assurances that the school has received commitments of sustained and verifiable fiscal and in-kind support from regional education and business entities;</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if the proposal includes assurances that the school has received in-kind and financial support from regional industry and educational partners.</i></p>		
<p>10) A description of how the school's assets will be distributed if the school closes for any reason.</p> <p><i>Top points awarded if the proposal describes in detail how the school's assets will be distributed in the case that the school closes.</i></p>		
Total Points		

_____ I recommend designating this applicant as a STEM School without conditions.

_____ I recommend designating this applicant as a STEM School with the following conditions.

_____ I do not recommend this applicant as a STEM School.

3326.03 STEM school grants – contents of proposals

- (A) The STEM committee shall authorize the establishment of and award grants to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics schools based on proposals submitted to the committee. The committee shall determine the criteria for proposals, establish procedures for the submission of proposals, accept and evaluate proposals, and choose which proposals to approve to become a STEM school. In approving proposals for STEM schools, the committee shall consider locating the schools in diverse geographic regions of the state so that all students have access to a STEM school. The committee may authorize the establishment of a group of multiple STEM schools to operate from multiple facilities located in one or more school districts under the direction of a single governing body in the manner prescribed by section 3326.031 of the Revised Code. The committee shall consider the merits of each of the proposed STEM schools within a group and shall authorize each school separately. Anytime after authorizing a group of STEM schools to be under the direction of a single governing body, upon a proposal from the governing body, the committee may authorize one or more additional schools to operate as part of that group. The STEM committee may approve one or more STEM schools to serve only students identified as gifted under Chapter 3324. of the Revised Code.
- (B) Proposals may be submitted only by a partnership of public and private entities consisting of at least all of the following:
- (1) A city, exempted village, local, or joint vocational school district or an educational service center;
 - (2) Higher education entities;
 - (3) Business organizations.
- (C) Each proposal shall include at least the following:
- (1) Assurances that the STEM school will be under the oversight of a governing body and a description of the members of that governing body and how they will be selected;
 - (2) Assurances that the STEM school will operate in compliance with this chapter and the provisions of the proposal as accepted by the committee;
 - (3) Evidence that the school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and project-based curriculum to students in any of grades six through twelve, with the goal to prepare those students for college, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following:
 - (a) Emphasizes the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress;
 - (b) Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design;
 - (c) Includes the arts and humanities;
 - (d) Emphasizes personalized learning and teamwork skills.
 - (4) Evidence that the school will attract school leaders who support the curriculum principles of division (C)(3) of this section;
 - (5) A description of how the school's curriculum will be developed and approved in accordance with section 3326.09 of the Revised Code;
 - (6) Evidence that the school will utilize an established capacity to capture and share knowledge for best practices and innovative professional development;
 - (7) Evidence that the school will operate in collaboration with a partnership that includes institutions of higher education and businesses;
 - (8) Assurances that the school has received commitments of sustained and verifiable fiscal and in-kind support from regional education and business entities;
 - (9) A description of how the school's assets will be distributed if the school closes for any reason.