

Call for Proposals for STEM and STEAM School Designation and STEM and STEAM School Equivalent for Schools 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. 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 and STEAM 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 school (in any of the grades kindergarten through 12) to help generate a talent base that will establish Ohio as a catalyst 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's citizens studying and working in STEM fields;
3. Foster development of stronger skills in problem solving, innovation and teamwork for all students.

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals may only be submitted 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

A community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code, a chartered nonpublic school or both may be part of the partnership.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

A. Letter of intent

Schools planning to apply for STEM or STEAM designation should submit a **letter of intent** to apply, **before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20, 2017**. Letters of intent should indicate the type of designation (STEM or STEAM), school grade band (elementary, middle school or high school), and must identify a point of contact with name, address, telephone number and email address. An electronic pdf of the letter should be emailed to holly.lavender@education.ohio.gov by the above due date.

B. Proposal

The STEM Committee must receive proposals by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Mar. 2, 2018. An electronic PDF should be emailed to: holly.lavender@education.ohio.gov.

Each proposal must include the following:

1. Cover letter: Cover letters should not exceed one page, and must identify the primary contact person by name, address, telephone number and email address.
2. Cover Sheet: Complete the form (pages 3 and 4 of this document), check the appropriate boxes and affix signatures.
3. Proposal narrative:
 - a. Respond to the questions on page 5 and 6 of this document. Responses should be in narrative form. Each question serves as the heading of a new section of the narrative.
 - b. The proposal narrative should be no more than 20 pages in length, double spaced, with 1" margins and size 11 font. The 20-page limit does not include the cover letter, cover sheet, or letters of commitment.
4. Letters of commitment: Applicants should include letters of commitment from all partners named in the proposal. Letters should be limited to one page, signed, and on partner's letterhead.
5. Proposals may include an *optional* appendix of evidence and examples that reflect the nature of the school's curriculum and culture and that serve to illustrate what is described in the narrative. The appendix may *not* be used for adding additional narrative beyond the 20-page limit. The appendix is limited to 10 pages, and should not include resumes or personal information of school employees or other individuals.

Applicants are strongly advised to review the "Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools," available on the Department's web page in early December, for clarity and examples of high quality STEM/STEAM practices.

Applicants are responsible for timely submission of proposals. Proposals become the property of the Ohio Department of Education. Proposals meeting the above requirements will receive careful consideration. This consideration will be regarding designation as a STEM or STEAM school in Ohio and will not include any consideration of grant funds. Applications will be reviewed by the STEM Committee and the Ohio STEM Learning Network.

The Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) offers technical assistance to schools interested in the STEM/STEAM destination process. Please contact OSLN directly by **Jan 15, 2018** for guidance on technical assistance. Upon request, OSLN will also provide written feedback on proposal drafts submitted to OSLN by **Jan 29, 2018**, for full review prior to submission to the Ohio Department of Education. Email olsn@battelle.org with questions.

COVER SHEET

Please indicate the type of designation being sought (check one). Community schools and chartered nonpublic schools should check STEM or STEAM "Equivalent."

STEM School STEAM School
STEM School Equivalent STEAM School Equivalent

School IRN: _____

School name: _____

School mailing address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Grade levels served by the school (check all that apply):

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Other _____

Type of School: (check one)

District school Independent STEM/STEAM school

Community school Chartered nonpublic school

CONTACT INFORMATION:

School Principal/Director name: _____

School Principal/Director email: _____

School Principal/Director phone: _____

Treasurer/Fiscal officer name: _____

Treasurer/Fiscal officer email: _____

Treasurer/Fiscal officer phone: _____

Superintendent/CAO contact name: _____

Superintendent/CAO contact email: _____

Superintendent/CAO phone: _____

ASSURANCES

In accordance with ORC 3326.03 (or 3326.032 for community schools or chartered nonpublic schools), please provide the following assurances. By checking the "agree" box, you attest to the following:

The school will operate in compliance with the provisions of the proposal as accepted by the committee.

Agree

The school will operate in compliance with ORC 3326 (or sections 3326.032 and 3326.09 for community schools and chartered nonpublic schools).

Agree

The school will operate in collaboration with a partnership that includes both public and private entities, including institutions of higher education and businesses. If the proposal is for a STEAM school or STEAM school equivalent, the partnership includes arts organizations. (Include evidence in the narrative where indicated, and provide letters of collaboration.)

Agree

The school has received commitments of sustained and verifiable fiscal and in-kind support from regional education and business entities. If the proposal is for a STEAM school or STEAM school equivalent, the school has also received commitments of sustained and verifiable fiscal and in-kind support from arts organizations. (Include evidence in the narrative where indicated, and provide letters of collaboration.)

Agree

The school will be under the oversight of a governing body. (Include a description in the narrative where indicated.) If the school is a community school, the school has a sponsor and a letter of support from the sponsor is included.

Agree

School Principal/Director signature printed name date

Treasurer/Fiscal officer signature printed name date

Superintendent/CAO signature printed name date

Proposal Narrative Instructions:

In your proposal narrative, please respond to each of the following prompts, in order. Your responses should be in narrative form and use the provided headings. Each response should have its own separate section in the narrative. The proposal narrative is limited to 20 pages and must be double spaced, with 1" margins and size 11 font.

1. **Partnerships:** Describe the school's public/private partnership structure, including institutions of higher education and businesses. If the proposal is for a STEAM school or STEAM school equivalent, your description should include arts organizations. Using specific examples, describe how the partnership is inclusive of key stakeholders, and how partners will be utilized in curriculum development, instructional design, and providing learning opportunities for students.
2. **Governing Body:** Describe the members of the school's governing body and how they are selected. Describe how the body's membership supports the operation of a STEM or STEAM school.
3. **Curriculum:** Describe how the school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated and project-based curriculum, with the goal to prepare students for college, the workforce and citizenship. Include specific examples of how the curriculum:
 - a) Emphasizes the role of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress, including examples of how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are integrated into studies in other content areas;
 - b) Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design, including examples of how inquiry drives the curriculum;
 - c) *Includes the arts and humanities, including examples of how the curriculum integrates the arts and humanities with the STEM disciplines;
 - d) Emphasizes personalized learning and teamwork skills, including examples of how the curriculum provides for individualized learning experiences and opportunities for collaborative problem solving.

*If the proposal is for a STEAM school or STEAM school equivalent, the proposal must emphasize how the curriculum will integrate arts and design into the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to foster creative thinking, problem-solving, and new approaches to scientific invention.

4. **School Leaders:** Describe how the school will attract school leaders who support the curriculum principles of offering a rigorous, diverse, integrated and project-based curriculum, with the goal to prepare students for college, the workforce and citizenship. Using specific examples, describe how school leaders create and support innovative and effective teaching and learning environments, and the advancement of STEM education.
5. **Curriculum Team:** Describe how the school's curriculum will be developed by a curriculum team* consisting of, at minimum: 1) the chief academic officer, 2) a higher education partner, 3) a teacher, and 4) a member of the public with expertise in the application of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Describe how the team will develop an innovative curriculum.

*If the proposal is for a STEAM school or STEAM school equivalent, the curriculum team must also include an expert in the integration of arts and design into the STEM fields.

6. **Sharing Best practices:** Briefly describe how the school will capture and share knowledge for best practices and innovative professional development throughout the region and throughout the state.

7. **In-Kind and Financial Support:** Describe how the school has received or will receive in-kind and financial support from regional education partners and business entities. Describe how this will be used to support innovative STEM/STEAM programming.
8. **Distribution of Assets:** Briefly describe how the school's assets will be distributed if the school closes for any reason.

Additional considerations:

9. **Student Participation:** Describe how the school will provide opportunities for all students, including participation by disadvantaged and under-represented student populations.
10. **Teacher recruitment:** Describe how the school recruits and retains faculty members with a high interest in STEM education, experience with innovative instructional methods and a willingness to participate in a substantive professional development plan.