

Guidelines for Financial Reporting – STEM/STEAM Schools

According to Ohio law ([Ohio Revised Code 3326.11](#)), the governing body of each STEM or STEAM school must comply with the standards for financial reporting adopted under division (B) (2) of [section 3301.07](#) of the revised code. STEM and STEAM schools should follow the guidelines below for submitting financial reports.

Please remember that personal or confidential staff or student information should never be emailed or recorded on financial forecasts, as these reports are posted publicly.

The procedure for financial reporting varies, depending on the type of STEM or STEAM school:

A. The STEM or STEAM school is governed and controlled by a sponsoring school district and the sponsoring school district is a municipal, city, local, exempted village or joint vocational school district.

The STEM or STEAM school sponsoring district is responsible for financial reporting as part of the financial forecast submitted to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for the district. Forecasts must be submitted by the August 31 and February 28 deadlines and must include assumptions. **The deadline for the initial FY26 (2025-2026 school year) required submission is October 15.** STEM or STEAM school sponsoring districts are expected to be familiar with ORC 3326.51 regarding accounting and allocation of funds for STEM and STEAM schools.

B. The STEM or STEAM school is a community school with STEM or STEAM school equivalent designation.

Community Schools are required to submit financial forecasts twice annually to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Financial forecasts for community schools must be submitted by the school's sponsor via Epicenter by August 31 and February 28. **The deadline for the initial FY26 (2025-2026 school year) required submission is October 15.** The required financial forecast template and the technical guidance document can be found on the Office of Community Schools' [Financial Forecast webpage](#).

C. The STEM or STEAM school is an independent STEM or STEAM school with a separate governing body and is not a community school or part of a school district.

The STEM or STEAM school governing body is responsible for financial reporting, including submission of financial forecasts twice annually to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Financial forecasts must be submitted by the August 31 and February 28 deadlines and must include assumptions. **The deadline for the initial FY26 (2025-2026 school year) required submission is October 15.** Schools are required to use the forecast template available on the [Financial Reporting for STEM Schools webpage](#) and are to email the required submission to STEM@education.ohio.gov.

D. The STEM or STEAM school is a chartered nonpublic school with STEM or STEAM school equivalent designation.

Chartered nonpublic schools are not subject to this section.