

# STEM and STEAM Designation Rubric



Please use the following contact information for any questions you may have regarding this process and/or application:

The Ohio Department of Education: [STEM@education.ohio.gov](mailto:STEM@education.ohio.gov)

The Ohio STEM Learning Network: [OSLN@battelle.org](mailto:OSLN@battelle.org)

## About the Rubric

The Ohio STEM Committee, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network are committed to ensuring each child in Ohio is challenged, prepared and empowered through innovative approaches to teaching and learning. STEM and STEAM education provides an opportunity for each child to discover and learn, pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and become a resilient, lifelong learner who contributes to society.

The Ohio STEM Committee is responsible for determining STEM and STEAM designation. According to Ohio Law, revised Sept. 30, 2021, STEM and STEAM designated schools will remain designated for five years. At the end of that five-year period, the schools are required to reapply to the STEM committee to maintain their designation. Schools' proposals for designation will be reviewed according to The Ohio STEM and STEAM Designation Quality Monitoring Rubric.

Applicants are responsible for timely submission of applications. The submitted applications will be public records within the possession of the Ohio Department of Education. The rubric is aligned with [Each Child, Our Future – Ohio's Strategic Plan for Education](#), [Ohio's Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools](#), and legal requirements established in [Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3326](#).

The rubric encompasses **thirteen attributes - five attributes addressing Culture for Learning, five attributes addressing Learning and Teaching, and three attributes addressing Pathways to Success in Careers.**

Schools that receive an "Emerging" rating on any of the rubric components will not yet be recommended for five years of Designation. Certain attributes require a minimum rating of "Executing" and others require either "Establishing" or "Executing" for a school to be recommended for designation. **Applicants can see the minimum required rating for each attribute in the respective sections of the rubric in red text.**

Schools that reapply after five years of STEM or STEAM designation that are not recommended for additional years of designation upon the completion of this process will collaborate with the Department of Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network to develop and implement a STEM Growth Plan as established in [Ohio Revised Code 3326.03 \(E\)\(2\)](#) and [3326.032 \(C\)\(2\)](#).

The application requires for artifacts to be submitted to demonstrate evidence of the school's STEM and STEAM pedagogy in practice. Artifacts are defined as forms of evidence that can be used to showcase educational practices that align with STEM and STEAM best practices. Artifacts can take on various formats, including but not limited to documents, webpages, videos, images, flyers, news stories, images or videos of models, prototypes, presentations, spaces, reports, publications, forms, lesson plans, applications, spreadsheets and more. If appropriate, the same artifact can be used as evidence for multiple attributes. The submitted artifacts should be representative of schoolwide, current and exemplary practice of STEM pedagogy. The selection of the artifacts should be purposeful in order to tell a story of ongoing and growing STEM practices accessible to all students within the school. Some of the required artifacts will need to span a certain time period, so please note any required dates in the application. **Certain sections of the rubric ask for minimum required specific artifacts in red text**, while others may simply offer suggestions.

*Helpful tips for the written application platform can be found in grey, italicized text throughout the application.*

### Rubric Categories

<b>Emerging</b>	Insubstantial or absent evidence of meeting the requirements aligned with Ohio Law and the Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools
<b>Establishing</b>	Evidence of meeting the requirements aligned with Ohio Law and the Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools is limited to clusters of teachers, students, grade levels and disciplines
<b>Executing</b>	Evidence of meeting the requirements aligned with Ohio Law and the Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools spans across all grade levels and disciplines and includes all teachers and students

### Proposals for STEM or STEAM School Designation can be submitted by (Ohio Revised Code Section 3326.03):

A partnership of public and private entities consisting of at least all of the following:

- (1) A city, exempted village, or local **school district**;
- (2) **Higher education entities**;
- (3) **Business organizations**.

### STEM or STEAM School Equivalent Designation (Ohio Revised Code Section 3326.032) applies to:

- (1) A school operated by a **joint vocational school district**;
- (2) A school offering career-technical education programs that is operated by a school district that is a **comprehensive career-technical education provider**;
- (3) A school offering career-technical education programs that is operated by a **school district that is a participant in a compact career-technical education provider**;
- (4) A **community school** established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code;
- (5) A **chartered nonpublic** school.

School Equivalents are subject to all parts of this rubric unless otherwise noted.

All corresponding code sections for STEM or STEAM School Equivalents are highlighted gray.

Culture for Learning- Beliefs and Disposition, Equity and Access

1.1 Cultural Strategies

(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)

STEM and STEAM schools exhibit age-appropriate, school-wide cultural strategies reflecting innovation, an entrepreneurial spirit, inquiry, and collaboration with individual accountability. ORC 3326.03 (C) (4) 3326.032(B)(3)

Cultural strategies reflect a community’s understanding of success. Community needs drive instructional and delivery strategies in each school. Habits of Mind reflect what a community values in a successful adult and are explicitly taught and continually utilized within the school.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 9*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>Community values are not taught or utilized throughout the school.</p> <p>The school’s cultural strategies do not reflect innovation, an entrepreneurial spirit, inquiry and collaboration with individual accountability.</p>	<p>Community values are sometimes taught and utilized when applicable.</p> <p>The school's cultural strategies reflecting innovation, an entrepreneurial spirit, inquiry and collaboration with individual accountability are not exhibited on the schoolwide level.</p>	<p>Community values are consistently taught and utilized.</p> <p>The school exhibits schoolwide STEM cultural strategies including innovation, an entrepreneurial spirit, inquiry and collaboration with individual accountability.</p>
Written Application	<p><b>Upload an artifact</b> depicting the school’s community values, for example, something that reflects what is expected in a successful adult. <b>These may be referred to as the school’s Habits of Mind or School Pillars. (Required)</b></p> <p><i>(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit this document.)</i></p> <p>Upload <b>two to four artifacts</b> that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.</p> <p><i>(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case four. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p> <p><b>Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructional plans that capture how the STEM cultural strategies are embedded in teaching and learning</li> <li>• Student work samples that demonstrate how students apply the STEM cultural strategies</li> <li>• Professional development documents (agendas, purpose and objectives, excerpts of content, etc.) that demonstrate the school’s focus on incorporating the STEM cultural strategies in its teaching and learning practices</li> </ul> <p><b>The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute, regardless of its format.</b></p> <p>Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).</p> <p><i>(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)</i></p>		

Culture for Learning- Beliefs and Disposition, Equity and Access

1.2 Inclusive Mission

(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)

The school environment is open and validating to all students. The school provides multiple age-appropriate opportunities to inspire and inform students about careers and academic pathways in STEM/STEAM-related fields. The school supports students beyond the school day (e.g., bridge programs, extended school day, extended school year, looping, social services, etc.). All students have access to age-appropriate interests. Schools design and implement interventions to close gaps in academic and nonacademic skill areas.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 11*

*3326.10 (D) Unless the school serves only students identified as gifted under Chapter 3324. of the Revised Code, the school will not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic or artistic ability.*

*3326.10 (E) The school will assert its best effort to attract a diverse student body that reflects the community, and the school will recruit students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>The school environment is not inclusive to all students within the school. Student participation in programs is not reflective of the school’s overall demographics.</p> <p>The school does not assert an effort to attract a diverse student body that reflects the community.*</p> <p>The school admission is limited based on student intellectual, athletics, or artistic ability, or measures of achievement or aptitude.*</p>	<p>The school environment is inclusive to all students. Student participation in programs is reflective of the school’s overall demographics, however the available programs are not culturally responsive.</p> <p>The school asserts an effort to attract a diverse student body that reflects the community.*</p>	<p>The school environment is inclusive and culturally responsive to all students.</p> <p>The school asserts an effort to attract a diverse student body that reflects the community. The school recruits students from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups from their community.*</p>
<p><i>*Does not apply for schools that serve only gifted students under ORC 3324 or schools applying for the STEM school equivalent designation under ORC 3326.032.</i></p>			

Written  
Application

**STEM or STEAM Schools (not STEM or STEAM School Equivalents): Upload an artifact** depicting how demographics of the school compare to the demographics of its district or community. **(Required)**

*(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit this document.)*

Upload **two to four artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.

*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case four.*

*After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Student participation data in various school programs
- Recruitment efforts
- Student participation data in STEM or STEAM activities beyond the school day
- Student participation data related to career pathways

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute, regardless of its format.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).

*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

## Culture for Learning- Beliefs and Disposition, Equity and Access

**1.3 Personalized Learning**

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Establishing)**

Students have ownership of their own learning, set goals and make choices about how to accomplish them. Personal learning pathways are student-driven, and students have multiple ways to show what they know. Staff support students in developing and maintaining student-created learning plans and monitoring progress toward future goals. Instructional strategies, materials and pacing are flexible and based on the needs of students. Students can earn credit based on mastery and are not penalized for taking additional time to demonstrate learning. Students have voice and choice when developing learning opportunities.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 11*

All stakeholders are engaged in learning, where STEM and STEAM disciplinary practices and habits of mind are explicitly and intentionally integrated to effectively participate in a global society. Mastery/competency is a core construct of learning expectation.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 14*

3326.03 (C)(5)(c) 3326.032(B)(4)(c) *STEM and STEAM schools provide opportunities for students to engage in personalized learning.*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
<p><b>Ratings</b></p>	<p>Students have no opportunities to have ownership of their own learning.</p> <p>Mastery learning or competency-based learning is not practiced.</p>	<p>Teachers, rather than students, lead the development and maintaining of personalized student learning goals and monitoring progress.</p> <p>Mastery learning or competency-based learning is practiced in clusters but not schoolwide.</p>	<p>Students have ownership of their own learning, set goals and make choices about how to accomplish them.</p> <p>Staff support students in developing and maintaining student-created learning plans and monitoring progress toward future goals.</p> <p>Personal learning pathways are student-driven, and students have multiple ways to show what they know.</p> <p>Mastery learning or competency-based learning is practiced schoolwide.</p>
<p><b>Written Application</b></p>	<p>Upload <b>two to five artifacts</b> that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.  <i>(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case five. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p> <p><b>Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School-developed documents related to implementation and support of personalized learning</li> <li>● Teacher-developed documents related to implementation and support of personalized learning</li> <li>● Teacher professional development agendas/content</li> <li>● Descriptions of school interventions to support closing the academic and nonacademic gaps</li> <li>● Documents depicting high school level career and college advising related to STEM/STEAM fields</li> <li>● Examples of student voice and choice in learning opportunities</li> <li>● Student-created learning goal documents</li> <li>● Documents describing the mastery or competency-based learning school policy</li> <li>● Teacher-created documents depicting the process for remediation and achievement of mastery</li> </ul> <p><b><i>The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.</i></b></p> <p>Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).  <i>(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)</i></p>		

Culture for Learning- Beliefs and Disposition, Equity and Access

1.4 School Leadership

(Minimum rating required for designation: Establishing)

Evidence that school leadership supports the curriculum principles in ORC 3326.03(C)(5) including rigorous, diverse, integrated, and problem- or project-based curriculum to all students that includes: (5)(a) the role of science technology, engineering and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress; (5)(b) the use of design thinking as a school-wide approach; (5)(c) opportunities for students to engage in personalized learning; and (5)(d) the arts and the humanities. *3326.032(B)(5) applies to School Equivalents*

School leaders are open, agile and driven by a vision for learning. They lead by example and create an environment of high expectations, sparking a passion for learning and preparing students both academically and socially for their futures. Leaders create, clearly articulate and follow a shared vision. Leaders empower teachers to facilitate inquiry and problem-based learning. Leaders support teacher autonomy, the creation of school structures to promote teacher collaboration, teacher professional development to ensure progressive expectations, and applied/work-based learning experiences for teachers.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 12*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>School leaders do not recognize the importance of STEM/STEAM in promoting innovation and economic progress.</p> <p>Leaders assert effort to promote teacher collaboration.</p>	<p>School leaders are open, agile and driven by a vision for learning.</p> <p>Leaders empower some teachers to facilitate design thinking, problem- or project-based learning, and personalized student learning.</p> <p>Leaders create school structures that sustain teacher collaboration.</p>	<p>School leaders are open, agile and driven by a vision for learning. That vision recognizes the importance of STEM/STEAM in promoting innovation and economic progress.</p> <p>Leaders empower all teachers school-wide (including the arts and the humanities) to facilitate design thinking, problem- or project-based learning, and personalized student learning.</p> <p>Leaders create school structures that sustain interdisciplinary teacher collaboration.</p>

Written  
Application

Upload **two to six artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.

*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case six.*

*After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Documents depicting opportunities for staff collaboration during a school day or week, such as a daily or weekly school schedule with clearly delineated common planning time among specific teachers
- Agendas for staff meetings (daily, weekly, and/or monthly agendas capturing the collaboration aspects of the meeting)
- School calendar (monthly, marking period, semester, trimester, year, etc.) that supports staff collaboration
- Minutes from teacher teams' meetings focused on common planning
- Documents depicting promotion of STEM understanding among various stakeholders
- School strategic plan or annual action plan that outlines professional development for teachers, cross-curricular integration or advancing community partnerships.
- Lesson plans, work products, modified school schedules or any other documents capturing examples of innovative instruction
- School schedule depicting opportunities for innovative instruction, such as co-teaching, service learning, learning outside of classrooms, etc.
- Agendas and/or notes from a professional development or professional meetings depicting the school leaders empowering teachers to engage in innovative instruction
- Agendas and/or notes from a professional development or professional meetings depicting the school leaders employing the design thinking process with their staff

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).

*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

## Culture for Learning- Beliefs and Disposition, Equity and Access

**1.5 Governing Body and/or Advisory Group and Curriculum Team**

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)**

STEM proposals must include partners from public and private entities consisting of at least all of the following: (1) a city school district, exempted village school district, or local school district; (2) higher education entities; (3) business organizations (unless the proposal is for STEM/STEAM School Equivalent designation).

The Governing Body oversees the entire school. For a traditional school district, the school district board of education often serves as the governing body. The governing body must have expertise in STEM or STEAM pedagogy. In a situation in which the governing body does not have this expertise, the school should consider forming a STEM Advisory Group that can provide guidance specifically on STEM or STEAM pedagogy.

A Curriculum Team collaborates to develop the school's curriculum. This team consists of the school's chief administrative officer, a teacher, a representative of the higher education institution that is a collaborating partner in the STEM school or school designated as a STEM school equivalent, and a member of the public with expertise in the application of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. **In the case of a STEAM school or a STEAM school equivalent, the team also shall include an expert in the integration of arts and design into the STEM fields.**

The Governing Body meets throughout the school year to discuss the progress of the school in STEM practices. The governing body plays a pivotal role in determining and supporting the STEM practices implemented within the STEM school.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 13*

*(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, or local school district; (2) Higher education entities; (3) Business organizations. A community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, a chartered nonpublic school, or both may be part of the partnership. 3326.03 (B)*

*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. 3326.03 (C)(2)*

*Evidence that school leadership supports the curriculum principles of 3326.03 (C)(5).*

*Subject to approval by its governing body, the curriculum of each science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school and of each community school or chartered nonpublic school that is designated as a STEM school equivalent under section 3326.032 of the Revised Code 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 in the STEM school or school designated as a STEM school equivalent, and a member of the public with expertise in the application of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. **In the case of a STEAM school or a STEAM school equivalent, the team also shall include an expert in the integration of arts and design into the STEM fields.** ORC 3326.09 **3326.032B6***

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>The school does not have a governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group that includes partners from:</p> <p>(1) A city, exempted village, or local school district <i>(not needed for STEM School equivalent)</i></p> <p>(2) Higher education entities; and</p> <p>(3) Business organizations.</p> <p>If the school is a STEAM school, the governing body and/or STEM advisory group does not include a partner from an arts organization.</p>	<p>The governing body and/or STEM advisory group includes partners from:</p> <p>(1) A city, exempted village, or local school district <i>(not needed for STEM School equivalent)</i>;</p> <p>(2) Higher education entities; and</p> <p>(3) Business organizations.</p> <p>If the school is a STEAM school, the governing body and/or STEAM advisory group should also include a partner from an arts organization.</p> <p>The governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group may assist in</p>	<p>The governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group includes partners from:</p> <p>(1) A city, exempted village, or local school district <i>(not needed for STEM School equivalent)</i>;</p> <p>(2) Higher education entities; and</p> <p>(3) Business organizations.</p> <p>If the school is a STEAM school, the governing body and/or STEAM advisory group should also include a partner from an arts organization.</p>

		<p>decisions at some point, but does not play an active, consistent role in implementation and growth in STEM/STEAM practices throughout the entirety of the school year.</p> <p>The governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group does not meet regularly to discuss the progress of the school in STEM/STEAM practices.</p> <p>A description of the members of the governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group and how they are selected is provided.</p>	<p>The school has a governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group consisting of a diverse group of individuals selected for their expertise in STEM/STEAM pedagogy.</p> <p>The governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group oversees the operations of the school.</p> <p>The governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group meets throughout the school year to discuss the progress of the school in STEM/STEAM practices.</p> <p>A team consisting of at least the school's chief administrative officer, a teacher, a representative of the higher education partner, and a member of the public with expertise in the STEM/STEAM disciplines will engage in curriculum design. This may include guiding the development of standards-based learning goals, ensuring support for implementation of STEM/STEAM instructional practices, impacting the selection of STEM/STEAM learning materials, or supporting the use of dynamic assessments.</p> <p><i>In the case of a STEAM school or a STEAM school equivalent, the team also shall include an expert in the integration of arts and design into the STEM fields.</i></p> <p>A description of the members of the governing body and/or STEM or STEAM advisory group and how they are selected is provided.</p>
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Written  
Application

**Provide a narrative** describing the school's organizational structure. More specifically, does the school have a separate STEM/STEAM advisory group separate from the Governing Body? Explain the role of the Curriculum Team, as well as the roles of the Governing Body and/or STEM/STEAM advisory group.

**Upload an artifact** listing the members of the school's governing body and their affiliations. Include a description of how the members are selected. **(Required)**

*(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit this document. After this artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

If the school has a STEM/STEAM advisory group that is different from the governing body, **please upload an artifact** listing the members and their affiliations. Please be sure to include a description of how the members are selected. **(Required for schools that have a STEM/STEAM advisory group)**

*(After the artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

If the curriculum team is different from the governing body and advisory group, please upload an artifact listing the members and their affiliations. Be sure to include a description of how the members are selected. **(Required for the schools that have a curriculum team different than their governing body and advisory group)**

*(After the artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Upload** the agendas and minutes for all governing body meetings, as well as agendas and notes for any STEM/STEAM advisory group OR curriculum team meetings that have occurred within the past 18 months. **(Required)**

*(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit this document.*

*Merge all documents into a single PDF before uploading.)*

Upload **one or two artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.

*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case two. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Evidence of engagement activities by the governing board, advisory group and/or curriculum team members, such as workshops, classroom engagement, speakers, staff collaboration, PBL contributions, curriculum modifications, etc.

**The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.**

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).

*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

## Learning and Teaching

**2.1 Integrity of Academic Disciplines****(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)**

All stakeholders are engaged in learning, where STEM and STEAM disciplinary practices and habits of mind are explicitly and intentionally integrated to effectively participate in a global society. Emphasis is placed on reasoning and problem solving (for example, scientific reasoning, engineering design, computational thinking, design thinking, argument from evidence) embedded throughout the curriculum.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, Pg. 14*

Learning experiences are content-accurate, anchored to the relevant content standards and focused on the big ideas and foundational skills critical to future learning in the discipline(s). Students engage in interdisciplinary STEM/STEAM content as the focus of the school curriculum. Curriculum is vertically and horizontally aligned and is centered on educational and/or industry standards or other recognized frameworks. Learning experiences and environments are immersive and reflective.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, Pg. 15*

Students are regularly engaged in units that articulate interdisciplinary connections. Students can identify ways that disciplines are interrelated and reinforced and complement one another. Learning experiences are planned and aligned by all grade levels and content areas, spiraling in increased complexity and rigor. Learning experiences require students to connect one or more disciplines and include instructional support for quality performance.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 16*

This section assesses that the school maintains the integrity of each academic discipline and its corresponding grade-level content standards when integrated with other disciplines.

*3326.10 (C)(5) 3326.032(B)(4) Evidence that each school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and problem- or project-based curriculum to all students enrolled in the school, with the goal to prepare all students for post-high school learning experiences, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following: (a) Emphasizes and supports the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in promoting innovation and economic progress.*

*(d) Includes the arts and humanities. If the proposal is for a STEAM school, it also shall include evidence that 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.*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
<p><b>Ratings</b></p>	<p>Learning experiences do not require students to apply knowledge from more than one discipline. <i>For STEAM schools: the learning experiences do not integrate the arts and design into the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</i></p> <p>Interdisciplinary learning experiences are not content-accurate or are not anchored to the relevant content standards and/or learning experiences are not focused on the big ideas and foundational skills critical to future learning in the discipline(s).</p>	<p>One or more elements below are not occurring schoolwide (they occur in clusters in certain grade levels or certain content areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning experiences require students to apply knowledge from two or more disciplines. <i>For STEAM schools: the learning experiences integrate the arts and design into the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</i></li> <li>• Interdisciplinary learning experiences are content-accurate, anchored to at least one relevant content standard for each discipline represented.</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary learning experiences focus on the big ideas and foundational skills critical to future learning in the disciplines.</li> </ul>	<p>All elements below are occurring schoolwide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning experiences require students to apply knowledge from two or more disciplines. <i>For STEAM schools: the learning experiences integrate the arts and design into the study of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</i></li> <li>• Interdisciplinary learning experiences are content-accurate, anchored to at least one relevant content standard for each discipline represented.</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary learning experiences focus on the big ideas and foundational skills critical to future learning in the disciplines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Written Application</b></p>	<p><b>Upload two to four lesson plans</b> (implemented within the past 12 months) of an interdisciplinary learning experience that is anchored to content standards for each discipline represented. <b>(Two lesson plans are required.)</b>  <i>(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit this document. After the artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p> <p>Upload <b>one or two artifacts</b> that demonstrate how your school models this attribute.  <i>(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case two. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p>		

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Documents capturing interdisciplinary planning of learning opportunities (consider including various subjects and grade levels)
- Documents and/or images depicting integrated curriculum maps
- Documents and/or images depicting vertical alignment and focus on educational and/or industry standards
- Documents and/or images depicting horizontal alignment and focus on educational and/or industry standards
- Student work samples that capture integration of learning across various disciplines (consider including various subjects and grade levels)

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).

*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

## Learning and Teaching

### 2.2 Teaching and Learning Approaches

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)**

Students learn by doing and regularly engaging in activities that connect learning to real-world issues, situations and problems. Students acquire critical thinking, creative problem solving, research and effective communication skills.

Problem-based learning (PBL) requires a process of inquiry (often interdisciplinary) that builds knowledge through immersive projects. Students experience research, problem-solving and project documentation, and participate in presentations of learning to an authentic audience multiple times throughout the academic year. Problem-based learning drives instruction and curriculum. Authentic PBL is student-directed, open-ended inquiry that results in the development of a solution or product that contributes to the larger community. PBL units include a culminating project that integrates content areas. Students design solutions with, and incorporate feedback from, a variety of authentic audiences (e.g., community members, peers, higher education, experts, industry, teachers, families, etc.).

Design thinking involves an iterative process (for example, researching, defining, ideating, prototyping, testing, modifying, sharing) and is referenced in all classes as a possible strategy for addressing a problem. Students demonstrate thinking skills in employing the design process, including opportunities to experience the recursive nature of the process. Entrepreneurial components are encouraged when appropriate. Design thinking develops solutions or products to address a human need identified by potential end users, in contexts that include but also extend beyond STEM topics (for example, aesthetics, social issues and others). Design thinking provides opportunities to think and explore novel ideas (what is not already known), possibly using innovative approaches that are not already developed.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 15*

All stakeholders are engaged in learning, where STEM and STEAM disciplinary practices and habits of mind are explicitly and intentionally integrated to effectively participate in a global society. Topics are investigated for an extended period of time, allowing for more depth and complexity. Learning targets higher-order thinking and deep engagement, collaborative efforts and effective communication.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 14*

This section assesses the teaching and learning approaches employed in the school.

*3326.10 (C)(5) 3326.032(B)(4) Evidence that each school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated, and problem- or project-based curriculum to all students enrolled in the school, with the goal to prepare all students for post-high school learning experiences, the workforce, and citizenship, and that does all of the following: (b) emphasizes the use of design thinking as a schoolwide approach.*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
<p><b>Ratings</b></p>	<p>One or more of the elements below are not taking place at all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students learn by doing and regularly engaging in activities that connect learning to real-world issues, situations and problems.</li> <li>Students engage in problem-based or project-based learning by experiencing research, problem-solving, project documentation, and participating in presentations of learning to an authentic audience multiple times throughout the academic year.</li> <li>Students engage in the design thinking process.</li> </ul>	<p>Each of the elements below are occurring but one or more are not occurring schoolwide (they occur in clusters in certain grade levels or certain content areas):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students learn by doing and engaging in activities that connect learning to real-world issues, situations and problems.</li> <li>Students engage in problem-based or project-based learning by experiencing research, problem-solving, project documentation, and participating in presentations of learning to an authentic audience.</li> <li>Students engage in the design thinking process.</li> </ul>	<p>All elements below are occurring schoolwide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students learn by doing and engaging in activities that connect learning to real-world issues, situations and problems.</li> <li>Students engage in problem-based or project-based learning by experiencing research, problem-solving, project documentation, and participating in presentations of learning to an authentic audience.</li> <li>Students engage in the design thinking process.</li> </ul>

## Written Application

Upload **two to four artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute schoolwide.  
*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case four.  
 After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- A PBL exemplar that communicates the application of design thinking process
- A problem-based learning and/or project-based learning planning document
- Examples of inquiry-based learning in daily instruction
- Examples of learning involving authentic audience

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).  
*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

## Learning and Teaching

## 2.3 Computational Thinking and Technology

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Establishing)**

Students engage in diverse curriculum offerings that incorporate relevant technologies (e.g., research, engineering, computer science, design, digital fabrication, etc.). 3326.10 (C)(5) 3326.032(B)(4)

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 15*

Technology connects students with information systems, databases and research, mentors, and social networking resources for ideas during and beyond the school day. The school's structure and use of technology has the potential to change relationships between students, teachers and knowledge. Learning is supported and enhanced with authentic, relevant use of technology. Technology is integrated to promote creativity and innovation. Students identify and use the tools they need to solve problems. Technology is used to engage students in community, state and global learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 16*

*This section assesses the applications of technology and computational thinking to promote creativity and innovation.*

Ratings	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
	<p>Curriculum offerings do not incorporate relevant modern technologies (e.g., research, engineering, computer science, digital fabrication, etc.).</p> <p>Technology is directly substituted for traditional teaching tools or methods.</p>	<p>In some grade levels, curriculum offerings incorporate relevant modern technologies (e.g., research, engineering, computer science, digital fabrication, etc.).</p> <p>Students use technology tools identified by teachers to solve problems.</p> <p>Curriculum offerings incorporate computational thinking in certain clusters or certain grade levels.</p>	<p>Schoolwide, curriculum offerings incorporate relevant modern technologies (e.g., research, engineering, computer science, digital fabrication, etc.).</p> <p>Students identify and use the technology tools they need to solve problems.</p> <p>Technology is used to engage students in community, state or global learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.</p> <p>Curriculum offerings incorporate computational thinking for all students.</p>
<p><b>Written Application</b></p>	<p>Upload <b>one to two artifacts</b> that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.  <i>(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case two. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p> <p><b>Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student work samples that capture use of technology to solve problems</li> <li>• Student work samples that capture how students use technology to engage in opportunities beyond their classroom</li> <li>• Course catalog depicting courses that incorporate relevant modern technologies</li> </ul> <p><b><i>The above listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.</i></b></p> <p>Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).  <i>(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)</i></p>		

Learning and Teaching

**2.4 Dynamic Assessment**

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Establishing)**

Teachers augment traditional assessment with a variety of techniques, including authentic, performance-based assessments. Assessment recognizes teachable moments. It is active, ongoing, flexible and adaptable. Teachers use information on current student understanding to inform and plan future instruction. Formative assessment informs summative assessment and teaching efforts. Qualitative assessments, student self-assessments, reflection, peer observation, portfolios, practicum and dialogue (e.g., student interviews, TED talks, classroom conversations, etc.) are included. Assessment may be supported and enhanced with authentic, relevant use of technology. Students have opportunities to choose how to demonstrate their learning and its relevance to society.

Assessment practices require students to make a meaningful connection between course content and the world around them. Assessments may be ongoing, cross-curricular and/or project-focused. Assessments allow students to demonstrate understanding of content, entrepreneurial thinking and employability skills. Assessments are linked to desired outcomes of authentic, problem-based learning and design thinking activities. Student expressions of learning (artifacts) reflect the importance and impact of interactions with groups or individuals outside of the classroom (e.g., informal STEM/STEAM organizations, non-profit agencies, other students, museums, universities, business and industry partners, etc.). Students portray their learning process through collections of personal work and reflections.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 17*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>The school only utilizes traditional assessments.</p> <p>Students are not given opportunities to choose how to demonstrate their learning.</p>	<p>School provides a variety of ongoing and adaptable assessment techniques to provide data to drive instruction, but not across all subjects and grade levels.</p> <p>The school utilizes authentic, performance-based assessments, but not across all subjects and grade levels.</p> <p>Groups of teachers provide specific choices to students on how to demonstrate their learning.</p>	<p>School provides a variety of ongoing and adaptable assessment techniques to provide data to drive instruction.</p> <p>The school utilizes authentic, performance-based assessments across all subjects and grade levels.</p> <p>Schoolwide, students choose how to demonstrate their learning.</p>

**Written Application**

Upload **three to five artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.  
*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted. In this case five. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Performance-based assessments (consider including various subjects and grade levels)
- Integrated assessments administered collaboratively by two or more teachers
- Portfolios
- Project-based assessments
- Student choice boards for demonstrating learning
- Student self-assessments
- Evidence of schoolwide use of dynamic assessments
- Nontraditional formative and informal assessments

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).  
*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

**Learning and Teaching****2.5 STEM/STEAM Teaching Staff**

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)**

Teachers effectively and consistently use best practices in STEM/STEAM pedagogy. Teachers are well prepared either through education or work experience. Teachers facilitate authentic application of STEM/STEAM content and skills. Teachers design curricula that demonstrate real-world connections, with learning experiences that stimulate curiosity and creativity, and that facilitate transfer of knowledge and skills to new situations. Professional development is ongoing, aligns with STEM initiatives and includes support across the school year.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 18*

*Evidence that each school will participate in regular STEM-focused professional development and share knowledge of best practices; ORC 3326.03 (8) and 3326.032(B)(7)*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
<p><b>Ratings</b></p>	<p>School's professional development does not focus on the STEM/STEAM instructional practices.</p> <p>The professional development is not timely, ongoing, or relevant.</p> <p>School staff does not engage in sharing knowledge of best STEM/STEAM instructional practices.</p>	<p>School's professional development focuses on the STEM/STEAM instructional practices but its scope does not include the entire teaching staff.</p> <p>The professional development is timely, ongoing and relevant.</p> <p>School staff are invited to share their learning of best STEM/STEAM instructional practices with their colleagues from the school.</p>	<p>The entire teaching staff is included in timely, ongoing and relevant professional development opportunities focused on the STEM/STEAM instructional practices.</p> <p>Teachers and school leadership work together to personalize professional development based on individual development needs.</p> <p>School staff are invited to share their learning of best STEM/STEAM instructional practices beyond their school.</p>
<p><b>Written Application</b></p>	<p>Upload <b>three to five artifacts</b> that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.  <i>(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case five. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p> <p><b>Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School's annual PD plan</li> <li>● Agendas/content of STEM/STEAM focused PD</li> <li>● Descriptions of PD providers and how they support implementation of STEM practices</li> <li>● PD participation by teachers</li> <li>● Targeted/individualized PD opportunities</li> <li>● Evidence of a conference presentation</li> <li>● Description of onboarding policies related to STEM/STEAM pedagogy</li> <li>● Job-embedded professional development/instructional coaches</li> <li>● Book studies and staff participation</li> <li>● Peer observations</li> <li>● Video coaching</li> </ul> <p><b><i>The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.</i></b></p> <p>Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).  <i>(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)</i></p>		

Pathways to Success in Careers

**3.1 Career Access and Exploration**  
**(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)**

Learning experiences, during and outside of the school day, provide business and industry awareness and exploration, leading to career preparation, planning and training.

The school facilitates opportunities for students to be prepared to enter the workforce or college in STEM/STEAM. The school provides opportunities for applied learning in professional STEM/STEAM workplaces. Students have opportunities to learn about the pervasiveness of STEM/STEAM in society and careers.

Student career interests are developed through active student involvement in STEM/STEAM activities such as researching, shadowing and mentorships and (for older students) apprenticeships and internships. High schools provide access for students to complete certifications, credentials and/or credit completion at community colleges, colleges and/or universities. As appropriate for the grade level, schools provide access to students for course credit opportunities (e.g., advanced placement courses, international baccalaureate courses, early college, college credit plus, etc.). Schools promote awareness of postsecondary preparation (e.g., development of effective study skills and self-regulation skills, and (for older students) college tours and assistance with the application process, etc.).

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 19*

This section assesses age-appropriate STEM/STEAM career explorations, provided to students as standalone events or incorporated in their curricula.

*3326.03(C)(9) 3326.032(B)(8) Evidence that each school has established partnerships with institutions of higher education and businesses. If the proposal is for a STEAM school, it also shall include evidence of established partnerships with one or more arts organizations*

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>The school does not provide age-appropriate opportunities for applied learning in professional STEM/STEAM careers.</p> <p>The school does not provide age-appropriate opportunities for STEM/STEAM business and industry awareness and exploration.</p>	<p>The school-provided, age-appropriate opportunities for applied learning in professional STEM/STEAM careers occur in clusters in certain grade levels or certain content areas.</p> <p>The school-provided, age-appropriate opportunities for STEM/STEAM business and industry awareness and exploration occur in clusters in certain grade levels or certain content areas.</p>	<p>The school provides age-appropriate opportunities for applied learning in professional STEM/STEAM careers to all students.</p> <p>The school provides age-appropriate opportunities for STEM/STEAM business and industry awareness and exploration to all students.</p>

		<p>As appropriate for grade level, some students' career interests are developed through active student involvement in STEM/STEAM activities such as explorations (K-8), researching, shadowing and mentorships (6-12), and for high school students only, apprenticeships and internships.</p>	<p>As appropriate for grade level, all students' career interests are developed through active student involvement in STEM/STEAM activities such as researching, shadowing and mentorships and for high school students, apprenticeships and internships.</p> <p><i>For high school only:</i> Mentorships, apprenticeships, and internships have clear expectations communicated to both students and to partner hosting the student.</p> <p><i>For high schools only:</i> The school provides access for students to complete certifications, credentials and/or credit completion at community colleges, colleges and/or universities.</p>
<p>Written Application</p>	<p><b>Upload</b> an artifact depicting the data, including the <b>percentage</b> of students, participating in apprenticeships, internships, credentialing, college credit hours, etc., for the last completed school year. <b>(Required for high schools)</b></p> <p>Upload <b>three to five artifacts</b> that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.  <i>(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case five. After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)</i></p> <p><b>Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Webpage or a document describing the college and career exploration tool used by the school</li> <li>● Documents, instructional materials, student products, images, etc., of student explorations of careers (inside or outside the school)</li> <li>● Documents describing the requirements for mentorship, apprenticeship, internship and/or externship</li> <li>● Activities focusing on learning about STEM/STEAM careers</li> <li>● Documents and/or instructional materials connecting the content standards to authentic applications and careers</li> <li>● Mentorship opportunities (per grade level) and the corresponding student participation data</li> <li>● Shadowing opportunities (per grade level) and the corresponding student participation data</li> <li>● Internship opportunities (per grade level) and the corresponding student participation data</li> <li>● School-facilitated college visits and the corresponding student participation data</li> <li>● School-facilitated industry visits and the corresponding student participation data</li> <li>● List of activities (during or outside of school days) related to career explorations (highlighting those related to STEM/STEAM fields)</li> </ul>		

- List of speakers related to career explorations (highlighting those related to STEM/STEAM fields)
- Description of offered courses or programs related to study skills, college preparation, etc.

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).  
(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)

## Pathways to Success in Careers

### 3.2 Partnerships Extend Learning Opportunities

**(Minimum rating required for designation: Executing)**

The school collaborates with business, industry, arts and higher education partners to ensure alignment to intended pathways and local business and industry needs. Partners are part of the decision-making process. There is a business/industry and educator working advisory group. Partners support instruction (e.g., ideas for design challenges and problem-based learning, learning standards evaluation (industry), work-based learning development, credential alignment, etc.). Partners assist in providing ongoing, active work-based learning experiences each year, either during or outside of the school day (e.g., quality shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, etc.), so that students have direct experiences with STEM/STEAM professionals in authentic environments. Partners share resources (e.g., lab/design space, mentors, speakers, equipment, current industry information, expertise, meeting facilities, etc.).

Students and teachers have opportunities for contextualized learning, comparable to what they would find in business, industry and other professions.

When appropriate, based on the grade level, students have opportunities for interactions with STEM/STEAM professionals outside the regular school day. Students and teachers collaborate with partners for mentorship, shadowing, consultation and feedback opportunities that enhance learning experiences. The school creates and supports age-appropriate opportunities for STEM/STEAM work-based learning experiences for students and teachers. When appropriate, based on the grade level, students actively work with employers in realistic problem-solving situations, relevant to students and the community. Students have opportunities to participate in STEM/STEAM-related competitions, on-site/online STEM/STEAM exhibits, and/or in local, state and national STEM/STEAM forums.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 20*

All stakeholders are engaged in learning, where STEM and STEAM disciplinary practices and habits of mind are explicitly and intentionally integrated to effectively participate in a global society. Students have opportunities to engage in advanced learning beyond school walls.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 14*

*3326.03(C)(9) 3326.032(B)(8) Evidence that each school has established partnerships with institutions of higher education and businesses. If the proposal is for a STEAM school, it also shall include evidence of established partnerships with one or more arts organizations. The school shall also include assurances that the school has received commitments of sustained and verifiable fiscal and in-kind support from arts organizations (3326.03(C)(10))*

Ratings	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
	<p>The school's established partnerships do not include institutions of higher education and business.</p> <p><b>Two or more of the elements below is not occurring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners support instruction by providing ideas for design challenges and problem-based learning.</li> <li>Partners assist in providing ongoing, active work-based student learning experiences each year, either during or outside of the school day.</li> <li>Partners share resources with the school, including but not limited to lab/design space, mentors, speakers, equipment, current industry information, expertise, and meeting facilities.</li> <li><i>For high schools only:</i> Partners provide opportunities for work-based learning development, assisting in credential alignment, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>The school's established partnerships include institutions of higher education or businesses, but not both.</p> <p><i>For STEAM schools: the school has no established partnership with arts organizations.</i></p> <p><b>One of the elements below is not occurring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners support instruction by providing ideas for design challenges and problem-based learning.</li> <li>Partners share resources with the school, including but not limited to lab/design space, mentors, speakers, equipment, current industry information, expertise, and meeting facilities.</li> <li>When age-appropriate, students have opportunities to participate in STEM/STEAM-related competitions, on-site/online STEM/STEAM exhibits, and/or in local, state and national STEM/STEAM forums.</li> <li><i>For high schools only:</i> Partners provide opportunities for work-based learning development, assisting in credential alignment, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>The school has established partnerships with institutions of higher education and businesses. <i>For STEAM schools: the school has established partnership with one or more arts organizations.</i></p> <p><b>All of the elements below are occurring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners support instruction by providing ideas for design challenges and problem-based learning.</li> <li>Partners share resources with the school, including but not limited to lab/design space, mentors, speakers, equipment, current industry information, expertise, and meeting facilities.</li> <li>When age-appropriate, students have opportunities to participate in STEM/STEAM-related competitions, on-site/online STEM/STEAM exhibits, and/or in local, state and national STEM/STEAM forums.</li> <li><i>For high schools only:</i> Partners provide opportunities for work-based learning development, assisting in credential alignment, etc.</li> </ul>

Written  
Application

Upload **an artifact** listing the school's established partners. Provide a brief description of their collaboration commitment/role. **(Required)**

*(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit this document.)*

Upload **two to ten current** (dated within the last 12 months) letters of support for each partner **(Required)**.

- A minimum of two support letters is required. If applying for the **STEAM** designation, a minimum of three letters of support should be uploaded. One of the provided letters must be from the school's Arts and Humanities partner.
- Letters should detail how the school has received or will receive in-kind and financial support from regional education partners and business entities: Include examples of how the in-kind and financial support reflect the community's priorities for STEM/STEAM education; Describe how this will be used to support innovative STEM/STEAM programming.

*(The platform setting will prompt the applicant to submit the required two to three documents)*

Upload **three to five artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.

*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case five.*

*After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Shadowing opportunities (per grade level) and the corresponding student participation data
- Minutes from advisory group meeting related to learning opportunities and/or curriculum development involving the school's partners
- Internship opportunities (per grade level) and the corresponding student participation data
- Documents describing speakers provided by the partners
- Description of resources provided by the partners and their impact on teaching and learning
- Document, presentation or webpage describing a mentorship program supported by the partners
- Opportunities for students to engage in STEM/STEAM related competitions and student participation data
- Opportunities for students to engage in STEM/STEAM related activities (during and outside of school day) supported by the partners and student participation data

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).

*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*

Pathways to Success in Careers

**3.3 Relevant Community Experiences**  
**(Minimum rating required for designation: Establishing)**

STEM/STEAM schools exhibit STEM-rich formal and informal experiences with the community that are personally relevant to the student. Students have opportunities to engage in STEM/STEAM-related activities that have relevance to the community. Students and teachers partner with community members and families to take on service roles for students, classrooms or teachers, to enhance learning experiences. Students seek and incorporate feedback on their work from a variety of authentic audiences in their community (e.g., community members who have knowledge of the problem/issue, etc.). The learning environment is student-driven and designed to challenge the minds and stimulate the imaginations of learners.

*Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, p. 22*

This section assesses how schools root student learning in their local community, including providing opportunities for service learning and solving authentic problems relevant to students and their communities.

	Emerging	Establishing	Executing
Ratings	<p>Students are not provided with STEM/STEAM-focused community learning experiences.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Students are provided with STEM/STEAM-focused community learning experiences that are not relevant to both students and to the community.</p>	<p>STEM/STEAM-focused community learning experiences, relevant to both students and to the community, are available to certain clusters of students, not the entire school.</p>	<p>Schoolwide, students are provided with STEM/STEAM-focused community learning experiences, relevant to both students and to the community.</p> <p>Students and teachers partner with community members to enhance learning experiences.</p>

Written  
Application

Upload **two to four artifacts** that demonstrate how the school models this attribute.

*(The platform will allow for the maximum number of artifacts to be submitted, in this case four.*

*After each artifact is submitted, the prompt for the accompanying narrative will follow.)*

**Some examples of artifacts may include, but are not limited to:**

- Volunteering opportunities and the corresponding student participation data, including total hours of service learning
- Planning notes from school/community meetings identifying authentic problems
- Lesson plan that demonstrates a student driven or community driven problem
- Work products that show students solutions to a student driven or community driven problem
- Webpage, flyers, press releases, news stories or documents related to STEM/STEAM-focused events involving the students and the community members

***The above-listed artifacts do not represent an exhaustive list of evidence that can be submitted. Schools are encouraged to select and submit any artifact that demonstrates how the school models this attribute.***

Provide a description of how this piece of evidence demonstrates this specific attribute (150 words max).

*(This prompt will follow each submitted artifact.)*