

STEM Lighthouse Project

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$135,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$135,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for science, technology, engineering and mathematics lighthouse projects, consistent with chapter 238, Laws of 2010.

Purpose

The purpose of these funds is to designate schools at the elementary, middle, and high school level as models of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. The STEM Lighthouse schools serve as resources and examples of best practices in STEM instruction to other Washington schools and communities.

Description of Services Provided

Directed grant funding of \$20,000 to selected STEM Lighthouse schools. Identified STEM Lighthouse schools work in cooperation with OSPI to provide demonstration of best practices in STEM instruction to encourage other schools and communities to replicate similar models.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

Selected schools that have an established successful STEM program that meet criteria grounded in best practices receive \$20,000. Best practices identified include a small, highly personalized learning community, interdisciplinary curriculum with a strong focus on STEM delivered through a project-based instructional approach, and active partnerships with businesses and the local community to connect learning beyond the classroom. Selected grantees must provide technical assistance and advice to other schools and communities in the initial stages of creating learning environments focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	5
Number of Schools	5
Number of Students	N/A
Number of Educators	N/A
Other	N/A



Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$135,000	\$102,789
2023	\$135,000	\$59,734
2022	\$135,000	\$90,000
2021	\$135,000	\$100,963
2020	\$135,000	\$122,295

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
2024	5
2023	3
2022	3
2021	6
2020	6

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

In 2023–24, OSPI staff from elementary and secondary divisions (content leads, Career & Technical Education, Learning Options, and Secondary Operations) nominated schools which met the STEM Lighthouse criteria. After reviewing nominations, a final list representing elementary, middle and high schools was determined ensuring representation across the state as well as district/State-Tribal Education Compact (STEC) size and the communities they were located in. Schools on the list were directed funding through a grant.

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

OSPI is working to increase opportunities to gather best practices and create opportunities for shared professional development among grantees to school districts/STECs and their communities.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

None.

Future Opportunities

The nomination process produces a robust list of schools. This allows OSPI to highlight schools and their innovative work in STEM to a broader audience.

Other Relevant Information

None.

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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