

# West Sound STEM Network

## Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$125,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the West Sound STEM Network to increase STEM activities for students in school and after school and to develop industry education pathways in high demand sectors.

## Purpose

Funds were allocated via contract to the West Sound STEM Network (WSSN) with the intent to expand industry education pathways in high demand sectors and increase STEM activities for students.

## Description of Services Provided

WSSN elected to focus on professional learning for educators to support an increase to STEM activities and pathway development. WSSN supported six teacher cohorts, designed to foster collaboration and professional development helping to improve student engagement and STEM teaching practices. WSSN offered regional STEM trainings in January, February, and March open to interested educators in the region.

## Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

WSSN includes districts, private schools, and tribal schools that actively participate in various cohorts and workshops, often requesting specific training to enhance STEM education for students and educators. Educators could attend multiple training opportunities.

## Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

<b>Number of School Districts</b>	15
<b>Number of Schools</b>	4
<b>Number of Students</b>	0
<b>Number of Educators</b>	368
<b>Other</b>	0

## Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

## State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$125,000	\$121,825



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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	391

## Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

None.

## Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

Each of the following regional STEM trainings were offered in January, February, and March of 2024

- **FlightPATH: Aviation and Aerospace:** Analyzed simulated radar data, mapped surface elevations, constructed physical models using NASA resources. Explored "The Little Book of Aliens" by Adam Frank, discussed extraterrestrial life. Integrated literacy and STEM, inspired by Astronaut Stuart Roosa's story.
- **Blueprints: Construction, Engineering, and Manufacturing:** Learned home-wiring systems using Snap Circuits with guidance from Keyport specialists. Engaged in a design challenge building "marble coasters." Visited a high school wood shop, drew plans to scale, built toolboxes.
- **Biomedical Pathways:** Received Foldscopes for high-quality magnification. Built models of blood, earned Stop the Bleed certification. Prepared for Biotechnician Assistant Credentialing Exam (BACE) and other certifications.
- **S.E.A.S. Marine Science and Maritime:** Hosted Dr. Jason Hodin, engaged in sunflower sea stars conservation research. Integrated literature into STEM, explored contributions by women in ocean floor mapping. Integrated literature into STEM, explored contributions by women in ocean floor mapping.

Program evaluations were very positive which included clock hour evaluations and qualitative feedback from district leadership.

## Major Challenges Faced by the Program

With an increase of workshop and training requests, WSSN attempted to accommodate as many as possible.

## Future Opportunities

Partner with community-based organizations to increase access, especially to rural regions. Expand focus areas into student-centered activities.

## Other Relevant Information

N/A

## Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

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

## Program Contact Information

<b>Name</b>	Deifi Stolz
<b>Title</b>	Methods of Administration Program Supervisor
<b>Phone</b>	360-725-6254
<b>Email</b>	deifi.stolz@k12.wa.us