

STEM Lighthouse Contracts

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.

Proviso 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.

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/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 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	7
Number of Schools:	7
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other:	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$135,000	\$129,890
2024	\$135,000	\$102,789
2023	\$135,000	\$59,734
2022	\$135,000	\$90,000
2021	\$135,000	\$100,963

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	7
2024	5
2023	3
2022	3
2021	6

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

In 2024–25, OSPI staff from the elementary and secondary divisions (content leads, Career & Technical Education, 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 to ensure representation across the state as well as school district size and the communities they were located in. Schools on the list were directed funding through a grant. This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025 OSPI is no longer implementing this grant.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

OSPI works 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 Program(s)

None

Future Opportunities

The legislature did not provide ongoing funding for this work. Beginning July 1, 2025, the funding for this grant will end and OSPI will no longer implement this grant.

Other Relevant Information

None

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

Name: Clarisse Leong

Title: Director of Operations, Secondary Education and Pathway Preparation

Phone: 564-999-0148

Email: clarisse.leong@k12.wa.us