

Integrate Learning Standards/FieldSTEM

Budget Language

\$750,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$1,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the office of the superintendent of public instruction to contract with a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization physically located in Washington state that has at least 18 years of experience collaborating with the office and school districts statewide to integrate the state learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science with FieldSTEM outdoor field studies and project-based and work-based learning opportunities aligned with the environmental, natural resource, and agricultural sectors. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

Proviso Purpose

The purpose of this proviso is to use state funds to support a program called FieldSTEM, which helps students learn by connecting subjects like reading, math, and science with outdoor activities and real-world projects.

Services Provided

PEI partners with school districts across Washington to make learning more hands-on, place-based, and connected to the natural world through professional learning, curriculum co-design, and community partnerships. They provide educators with the tools and training needed to integrate outdoor and project-based learning into classrooms. Regional FieldSTEM Coordinators support districts in developing locally relevant, environmentally focused lessons, while PEI's commitment to equity ensures that rural, remote, and underserved schools have access to high-quality outdoor learning experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world environments.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

The program prioritizes schools serving Title I or other students historically underserved by science education, including rural, emergent multilingual, students of color, and students with disabilities.



Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	189
Number of Schools:	422
Number of Students:	76,942
Number of Educators:	779

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$1,000,000	\$999,508
2024	\$750,000	\$748,397
2023	\$750,000	\$750,000
2022	\$750,000	\$750,000
2021	\$500,000	\$492,918

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Educators	Number of Students
2025	189	422	779	76,942
2024	63	N/A	1,100	N/A
2023	156	426	1,036	73,565
2022	106	289	911	43,352
2021	81	228	900	31,367

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

With increased funding in 2024-2025, the program's services expanded across more areas of the state. The additional funds allowed some staff positions to grow from part-time to full-time, which helps the program reach more people and ensures that staff earn a living wage.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

PEI's evaluation of community partnerships found that educators and partners had actively collaborated to support student learning through outdoor and environmental education, with most partnerships successfully connecting classrooms to field experiences and hands-on learning. Educators worked with nonprofits, higher education, tribal entities, and local

volunteers, while partners provided in-class and field-based learning tied to science, sustainability, and careers. Both groups expressed strong interest in continuing and strengthening these collaborations. Feedback highlighted the value of PEI's professional development, resources, and support, and recommended improved communication, simplified resource sharing, and structured networking opportunities to enhance future partnerships and expand the impact of outdoor, place-based learning.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Funding for FieldStem was not included in the 2025-27 biennial operating budget. If the legislature chooses to fund this program in the future, common challenges to consider include time, communication, logistics, funding, and alignment with academic goals.

Future Opportunities

With the elimination of state funding, PEI is seeking other sources of funding to continue their program.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

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

Program Contact Information

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