

Mobius Science Center

Budget Language

\$100,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$100,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for the Mobius science center to expand mobile outreach of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to students in rural, tribal, and low-income communities.

Proviso Purpose

The purpose of the Mobius Discovery Center Outreach Project is to expand science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) education to under-represented student populations in rural, tribal, and low-income communities. The project provides STEAM outreach and field trip opportunities to build general awareness of STEAM and NGSS science initiatives in the local schools and communities, and to build capacity for STEAM teaching and learning in the region.

Services Provided

Mobius expanded its STEM and STEAM programming in partnership with local stakeholders, developing new workshops aligned to NGSS and Washington State Early Learning standards, including straw rocket engineering and introductory chemistry for young learners. Partnerships grew at schools such as Lidgerwood Elementary, Betz Elementary, Deer Park ECEAP, and Cusick Home Link, reaching students across multiple grades and preschool programs. Planetarium outreach reached all Betz Elementary students, and improvements funded this year allowed for a larger dome and new curriculum-aligned shows. Mobius also engaged students and families through STEAM nights, career fairs, and a Special Education Field Day, while piloting “mini” STEAM kits to expand hands-on learning opportunities to more students.

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

Those receiving fully funded services from Mobius Discovery Center are from under-represented populations in Northeast Washington school districts. The criteria used for school partnerships include Title I, rural, and tribal schools. Low-income rates are also used to identify underrepresented populations with served schools ranging from 34.10%-88.60% student population according to the OSPI report card.



Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	5
Number of Schools:	42
Number of Students:	5,472
Number of Educators:	128
Family Members:	497

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$100,000	\$100,000
2024	\$100,000	\$100,000
2023	\$100,000	\$100,000
2022	\$100,000	\$100,000
2021	\$100,000	\$100,000

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	42
2024	47
2023	49
2022	49
2021	24

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

Mobius continues to expand access to STEM and STEAM learning through mini-STEAM kits, which provide all supplies for a single activity and allow funding to reach more students and families. Partnerships with ECEAP programs have grown, prompting development of curriculum tailored to young learners' needs. After the original planetarium was damaged beyond repair, Mobius purchased a "b-stock" planetarium and added two new shows aligned with Spokane School District curriculum and NGSS standards. Program evaluation, led by Robert Idsardi, PhD, surveyed teachers and community partners on engagement, curriculum alignment, self-efficacy, and connections to STEM careers. Challenges include new Spokane School District transportation policies, which increase demand for in-class outreach. Mobius has responded by

expanding classroom-based programming and investing in a second outreach vehicle to provide low-cost, high-impact STEAM experiences.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

Mobius is partnered with Robert Idsardi, PhD, to evaluate Mobius' educational programs. A survey is being developed by Robert Idsardi, PhD, which was sent to teachers and leaders in community partnerships. Stakeholders were surveyed on student engagement, student enjoyment, support by Mobius staff, curriculum alignment to Next Generation Science Standards, program pacing, student self-efficacy, relevancy, connection to STEM careers, and overall value of the provided programs. The evaluation is attached to this report.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

Spokane School District has changed their policy for field trip transportation. Teachers are now asked to use public transportation to travel on field trips. This has caused concern in the community and has increased demand for outreach opportunities such as Mobius on the Move opportunities. Mobius educators are ready to meet the needs of our local community by providing STEAM activities in the classroom, reducing the need for transportation, however, creating more opportunities for access requires educator time in planning and coordinating, as well as developing low-cost, high-impact experiences. Mobius has expanded our outreach opportunities by investing in a second outreach vehicle.

Future Opportunities

Although funding through OSPI is currently unavailable for the 2025-2026 school year, Mobius and our partners are committed to a future of STEAM education for our community. Our outreach program will continue to grow in breadth and content, especially with future support from OSPI grants. Below are our current and future efforts to develop relationships with stakeholders and students in our area.

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

Name: Denise Davis

Title: Director of Elementary Education Content

Phone: 360-819-6843

Email: denise.davis@k12.wa.us