

West Sound STEM

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.

Proviso 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.

Services Provided

WSSN elected to focus on professional learning for educators to support an increase in 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 from October 2024 through June 2025 open to interested educators in the region.

Criteria for Receiving Services/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 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	15
Number of Schools:	4
Number of Students:	N/A
Number of Educators:	476

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.



State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$125,000	\$121,675
2024	\$125,000	\$121,825

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

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	495
2024	391

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025 OSPI is no longer implementing this program.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

Each of the following regional STEM trainings were offered to educators:

1. **Blueprints: Construction, Engineering, and Manufacturing Educator Cohort:** K–12 educators engaged in hands-on professional development focused on engineering and trades instruction. Activities included isometric drawing with industry tools, building and translating 3D structures, and exploring career pathways in trades. The cohort met in a woodshop tech classroom to tour CTE tools and practice skills like using hand planes and jigs. Safety protocols and collaborative lesson planning rounded out the experience.
2. **FlightPATH: Aerospace and Aviation Educator Cohort:** Educators explored aerospace careers through hands-on experiences like flight simulators, drone course setup, and SpheroBot programming. They used SLOOH's global telescopes for astronomy lessons and integrated literacy by studying the Tuskegee Airmen and Red-tailed Hawks. Professional development emphasized aviation career pathways and classroom applications.
3. **Biomedical Pathways Educator Cohort:** Grade 6–12 educators examined bioethics and medical careers, using *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* to explore ethical dilemmas. A discussion with UW bioethicist Dr. Sue Trinidad deepened understanding. Educators developed lessons on HeLa cells and explored employability skills for biomedical professions.
4. **S.E.A.S.: Maritime and Marine Science Educator Cohort:** Educators learned about maritime careers through sessions with the U.S. Coast Guard and Western Towboats. They studied ship engineering via Tom Crestodina's illustrations and created lessons

integrating technical drawing and science note booking to connect students with marine science careers.

5. **COSTAR Educator Cohort:** Thirty educators participated in professional development focused on computational thinking and science exploration. Activities included using "Turing Tumble" to model computer logic, remote telescope access via SLOOH, and hands-on investigations in life, physical, Earth, and space sciences.

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

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 program has ended and OSPI will no longer implement this 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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