ANNUAL REPORT

State of Ohio
Fiscal Year
2026













Ohio STEM Learning Network

SCHOOLS, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, COUNTIES

REACHED



880
Schools and Districts



2,432
Educators



367,675
Students



81
Counties

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Executive Summary

STEM Learning Network

The Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) advances a bold vision: Every Ohio student will have access to high-quality STEM learning that connects classroom experiences to Ohio's growing workforce needs. As a strategic public-private partnership between the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce and Battelle Education, OSLN serves as a key vehicle for advancing Battelle Education's mission to build a better tomorrow for students by enabling education systems to connect learning with future careers. Through statewide partnerships, educator capacity building, career-connected learning experiences, and workforce-ready STEM pathways, OSLN delivers measurable impact for students, educators, schools, and communities across Ohio.

The OSLN Strategy

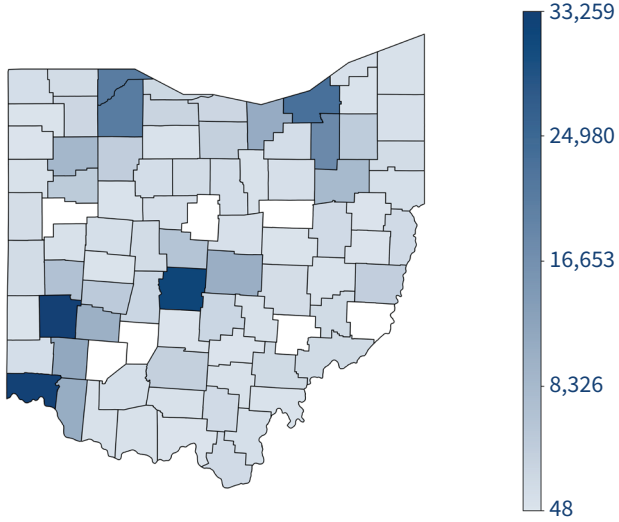
OSLN expands access to high-quality STEM education through three interconnected areas of work that build awareness, strengthen implementation, and sustain excellence across Ohio.

Ignite STEM

Strengthen STEM

Innovate STEM

FY2026 Statewide Student Reach



BATTELLE Education | Department of Education & Workforce

The Ohio STEM Learning Network is a public-private partnership of Battelle Education and the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce.

Ignite STEM

Expanding Access to STEM Education

OSLN's **Ignite STEM** strategy is designed to activate educators, schools, and communities around a shared vision for STEM education. We believe STEM belongs in every classroom, every educator can serve as a catalyst for innovation, and every student deserves access to engaging, real-world learning experiences that prepare them for the future.

Through awareness-building, exploration, and early implementation opportunities, **Ignite STEM** creates accessible entry points that help educators and communities discover what's possible. By inspiring new ideas, fostering connections, and encouraging experimentation, this work lays the foundation for lasting STEM transformation across Ohio.

412
Schools and Districts

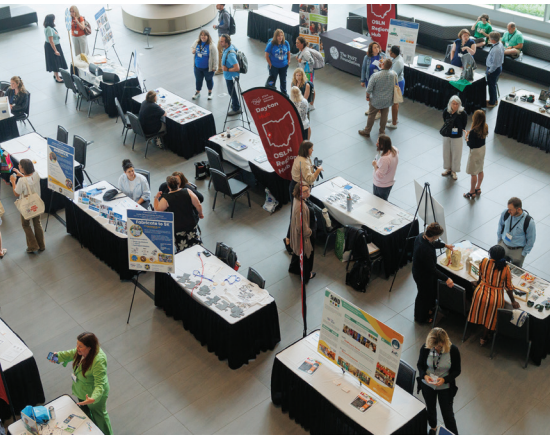
795
Educators

155,443
Students Reached

78
Counties

- Ohio STEM Innovation Summit
- STEM Classroom Grants
- Statewide Design Challenge
- Ignite Computer Science









Building Awareness and Momentum

Transforming STEM education begins by creating opportunities for educators, students, and communities to explore new ideas and connect learning to the real world. **Ignite STEM** programs help build awareness, develop confidence, and encourage the first steps toward deeper STEM implementation.

The Ohio STEM Innovation Summit

Ohio's premier STEM education conference brings together educators, school leaders, partners, and industry representatives to explore innovative practices, strengthen professional networks, and accelerate STEM learning across the state. The Summit serves as a catalyst for new ideas, meaningful collaboration, and continued growth for Ohio's STEM education community.

146
Schools and Districts

555
Educators

71,670
Students Reached

47
Counties

OSLN continues to inspire educators across Ohio to dream bigger, lead with purpose, and focus on what matters most for students. The network provides encouragement, connection, and a renewed sense of possibility. Every interaction serves as a reminder of why this work matters and reinforces the collective commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for students and communities.

The Summit combined professional learning with celebration, bringing together educators, leaders, and partners to share ideas, explore innovative practices, and build meaningful connections. From the Hall of Inspiration showcases to the annual STEM designation ceremony, attendees experienced firsthand the impact of Ohio's growing network of STEM education leaders and innovators.

Connecting Educators to Opportunity

Whether through statewide events, educator grants, workforce-connected learning, design challenges, or computer science initiatives, Ignite STEM creates entry points for educators and schools to explore innovative practices, build new skills, and take meaningful steps toward deeper STEM implementation. Together, these programs help ensure every educator can be a catalyst for STEM learning and every student can access engaging, future-focused educational experiences.

STEM Classroom Grants

Through the STEM Classroom Grants initiative, Battelle's philanthropic investment empowers educators to bring innovative ideas to life and expand meaningful STEM learning opportunities for students across Ohio. By providing direct funding to schools and classrooms, the program helps educators address local needs while advancing hands-on, real-world learning experiences that inspire student curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving.

- Investing $900,000 in STEM innovation across Ohio
- Empowering 194 educators in 165 schools to bring innovative STEM experiences to students
- Expanding access to hands-on STEM learning for 40,157 students across 68 counties

Projects supported classroom innovation, problem-based learning, career connections, technology integration, and community partnerships.

Ignite CS

Ignite Computer Science (CS) introduces educators and students to the possibilities of computer science and computational thinking, helping schools build foundational knowledge and confidence in a rapidly evolving digital world. Through strategic partnerships with the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Central Ohio, East Central Ohio ESC, Putnam County ESC, Gallia-Vinton ESC, North Point ESC, and Montgomery County ESC, OSLN expands access to high-quality computer science professional learning and support across Ohio.

Together, we help educators integrate computational thinking and computer science concepts across grade levels and content areas, preparing students for future learning, careers, and innovation-driven opportunities.

- 71 educators participated in Ignite CS and computational thinking learning opportunities
- 16,777 students were connected to foundational computer science learning

Statewide Design Challenge

The Statewide Design Challenge engages students in solving authentic, industry-connected problems while developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.

In FY2026, OSLN partnered with the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and DriveOhio to connect students with industry professionals and real-world challenges shaping Ohio's future. Through these partnerships, students gained firsthand insight into high-demand career fields while applying their learning to develop innovative solutions with relevance beyond the classroom.

- Engaging 212 educators across 165 schools in industry-connected STEM learning
- Challenging 53,882 students statewide to solve authentic, real-world problems







Strengthen STEM

Building Capacity and Advancing Systems

Building on the foundation established through Ignite STEM, OSLN's **Strengthen STEM** strategy helps educators, schools, districts, and community partners move from exploration to transformation. Through professional learning, leadership development, coaching, and collaboration, OSLN strengthens the capacity, partnerships, and systems needed to support high-quality STEM education.

By connecting stakeholders around a shared vision and common goals, this work advances sustainable STEM implementation, continuous improvement, and expanded opportunities for students across Ohio.

663
Schools and Districts

1,814
Educators

287,251
Students Reached

74
Counties

- Fostering STEM Institute
- Innovative Leaders Institute
- Strengthen Computer Science
- Regional OSLN Hubs

Building Capacity: OSLN Regional Hubs

OSLN's seven regional hubs serve as the local engine for STEM education across Ohio, connecting schools, districts, educators, and community partners to professional learning, coaching, industry engagement, and school improvement support. Through regional expertise and trusted relationships, hubs help translate statewide STEM priorities into meaningful local action, strengthening STEM ecosystems and expanding opportunities for students across diverse communities.



545
Schools and Districts



1,633
Educators



237,415
Students Reached

Dayton Region STEM Hub | Dayton Regional STEM Schools

Hosted by Dayton Regional STEM Schools, the Dayton Region STEM Hub connected educators and school leaders to professional learning, networking opportunities, and personalized STEM implementation support. Through initiatives such as STEM leadership networking, project-based learning workshops, and partnerships with Wright State University, the hub expanded access to high-quality STEM practices across the region.

Northwest Ohio STEM Hub | Bowling Green State University

Led by the Northwest Ohio Center for Excellence in STEM Education at Bowling Green State University, the Northwest Ohio STEM Hub engaged educators and students through programming focused on AI, inquiry-based learning, research, and workforce connections. Partnerships with the Toledo Zoo, Toledo Museum of Art, and regional industry leaders expanded access to high-quality STEM learning experiences across the region

Central Ohio STEM Hub | PAST Foundation

Managed by the PAST Foundation, the Central Ohio STEM Hub supported schools through professional learning, leadership coaching, workforce-connected learning, and STEM designation readiness services. Working with designated and aspiring STEM schools alike, the hub strengthened implementation practices, built leadership capacity, and helped schools develop sustainable systems that support long-term STEM transformation and continuous improvement.

Northeast Ohio STEM Hub | North Point Educational Service Center (NPESC)

Led by NPESC, the Northeast Ohio STEM Hub engaged 392 educators from 132 organizations and 81 districts through professional learning, leadership development, networking, and workforce-connected initiatives. Through partnerships with ESCs, higher education institutions, workforce organizations, and STEM-designated schools, the hub strengthened STEM implementation, AI integration, and career-connected learning across the region.

Southeast Ohio STEM Hub | Ohio University

Hosted by Ohio University, the Southeast Ohio STEM Hub supported 248 educators, 111 schools and organizations, and more than 32,000 students through professional learning, designation support, and regional partnerships. Collaborations with the Patton College of Education, Athens-Meigs ESC, and Appalachian Ohio Manufacturers' Coalition strengthened educator capacity, workforce connections, and pathways for future STEM educators.

Southwest Ohio STEM Hub | University of Cincinnati

Managed by the Greater Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (GCSC) at the University of Cincinnati, the Southwest Ohio STEM Hub connected educators, students, schools, and industry partners through professional learning, AI-focused educator development, STEM clubs, and career-connected experiences. The hub engaged more than 250 educators and 1,350 students while strengthening support for designated and aspiring STEM schools.

Akron Region STEM Hub | Akron Public Schools

Hosted by Akron Public Schools, the Akron Region STEM Hub expanded STEM opportunities through educator engagement, designation support, and partnerships with organizations such as the Akron Zoo, Cleveland Museum of Art, Akron History Center, and Goodyear. Through school spotlights, consultation, and regional networking, the hub helped schools strengthen STEM implementation and build new connections across the region.









Advancing Systems

Strengthening STEM focuses on building the capacity of educators, school leaders, districts, and partners to move from STEM experiences to sustained implementation. Through professional learning, leadership development, and collaborative networks, OSLN helps communities develop the knowledge, relationships, and action plans needed to advance high-quality STEM education and lasting systems change.

Innovative Leaders Institute: Bridge to STEM

Bridge to STEM empowers school and district leaders to create the conditions for lasting STEM transformation. They explore STEM culture, instructional innovation, workforce connections, and system changes while learning alongside peers, model schools, and experienced practitioners. As leaders strengthen their vision and action plans, they build the capacity to advance high-quality STEM education across their schools, districts, and communities.

- 100% of participants agree that STEM skills are important for Ohio students
- 90% of participants agree that, because of learning in this program, they have increased confidence in STEM leadership and implementation

Fostering STEM Institute

The Fostering STEM Institute strengthens the capacity of instructional leaders to advance STEM implementation across schools and districts.

- In FY2026, 40 instructional leaders from 20 schools participated in a year-long learning community focused on coaching, STEM leadership, instructional improvement, and schoolwide implementation.
- Participants reported increased confidence in supporting educators, aligning STEM with broader school improvement efforts, and leveraging community and workforce partnerships to create authentic, career-connected learning experiences, with approximately 95% indicating the experience strengthened their growth as STEM instructional leaders.

Strengthening CS

Strengthening CS expands educator capacity to bring computer science, computational thinking, and AI into classrooms across Ohio. Through a statewide professional learning series and Computer Science Licensure Exam Preparation Program, educators deepen their instructional knowledge, build confidence in teaching computer science concepts, and strengthen pathways for students to develop future-ready skills.

- 90 educators from 64 schools, impacting 18,501 students, participated in the Computer Science Professional Learning Series designed to support classroom implementation. Participants increased their confidence in teaching and integrating computer science concepts and leveraging AI through hands-on learning, practical classroom applications, and computational thinking strategies.
- 45 educators participated in the Computer Science Licensure Exam Preparation Program to pursue their Ohio Computer Science licensure.

Innovate STEM

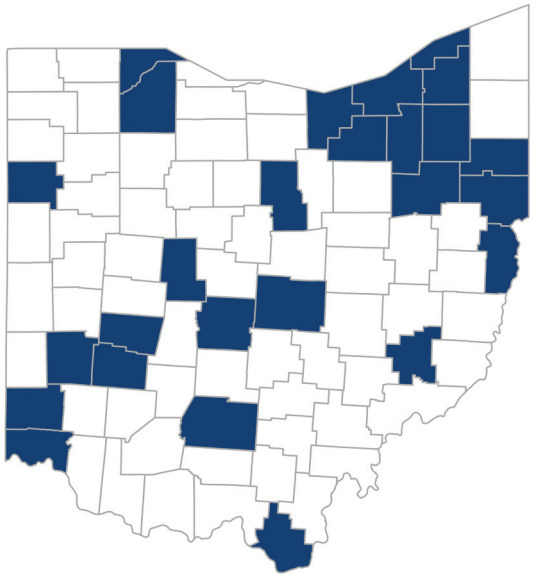
Advancing School Transformation and Innovation

OSLN's **Innovate STEM** strategy supports schools in moving beyond implementation toward continuous innovation and transformation. By leveraging the expertise of Ohio's STEM and STEAM designated schools and cultivating new models of excellence, this work strengthens leadership, instructional practices, and school systems that prepare students to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Through advanced stages of engagement, schools serve as catalysts for innovation, learning, and improvement across the state.

54
Schools and Districts

23,793
Students Reached

STEM & STEAM Designated Schools



STEM & STEAM Designation

A Framework for School Transformation

Ohio's **STEM and STEAM Designation** process serves as more than a recognition program. It provides schools with a framework for continuous improvement, helping educators strengthen student-centered learning, deepen community partnerships, and align systems that support long-term transformation. Through technical assistance, coaching, and access to network resources, OSLN supports schools pursuing initial designation as well as those renewing their commitment through redesignation.

In FY2026, OSLN provided ongoing support to schools throughout the designation process, including application guidance, implementation support, growth plan development, and redesignation preparation. As schools identified opportunities for growth, they remained actively engaged with the network to refine practices and advance their STEM and STEAM journeys.

Supporting School Advancement

- **Designation Support:** Guidance for schools pursuing initial STEM or STEAM designation
- **Growth Planning:** Support for schools implementing improvement plans and addressing identified areas for growth
- **Redesignation:** Technical assistance for schools seeking an additional 5 years of designation and sustained excellence



28
Applications Submitted



18
Schools Designated

Whether earning designation for the first time or working toward redesignation, schools engage in a continuous cycle of reflection, innovation, and improvement. Through this process, OSLN helps schools strengthen practices, build capacity, and create learning environments that prepare all students for future success.

Leadership and Network Impact

STEM and STEAM designated schools strengthen Ohio's education ecosystem by sharing their expertise with peers. Throughout FY2026, school leaders hosted site visits, served as designation reviewers, presented at conferences, and mentored educators through OSLN leadership and residency programs. Their contributions help build statewide capacity, accelerate innovation, and support continuous school improvement.

Computer Science, Computational Thinking & Artificial Intelligence

Expanding Access and Building Future-Ready Learning Across Ohio

Regional Partnerships Expanding Access

To increase access and build local capacity, OSLN partnered with six ESCs to deliver computer science, computational thinking, and AI learning opportunities across Ohio.
ESC of Central Ohio, East Central Ohio ESC, North Point ESC, Montgomery County ESC, Putnam County ESC, and Gallia-Vinton ESC

Ignite CS	Strengthen CS	Sustain CS	Computer Science Licensure Exam Preparation
Inspiring Exploration and Expanding Access	**Building Capacity and Deepening Practice**	**Embedding Innovation and Scaling Impact**	**Growing Ohio's CS Educator Workforce**
Introduces educators and schools to computer science, computational thinking, and AI through engaging learning experiences that spark curiosity and build awareness	Equips educators with the knowledge, tools, and support needed to implement high-quality computer science and AI experiences for students	Supports districts in integrating computer science, computational thinking, and AI into systems, pathways, and instructional practices to ensure lasting impact and continuous improvement	Prepares educators to earn Ohio Computer Science licensure, expanding access to high-quality computer science instruction and strengthening the state's educator pipeline
55 Schools	**64** Schools	**8** Districts	**39** Schools
16,777 Students	**18,501** Students	**12,058** Students	**45** Educators

Leveraging Investment Through Partnerships

As the backbone organization of OSLN, Battelle extends the impact of the state's STEM education investment through strategic partnerships, philanthropic support, and external funding opportunities. Battelle's philanthropic investments support key components of Ohio's STEM ecosystem, including regional STEM hubs and educator grants, which expand access to STEM learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. At the same time, OSLN continues to attract additional public and private funding that strengthens programming, build educator capacity, and create new opportunities for students across Ohio.

State Investment in OSLN: $1,500,000

Battelle Investment in OSLN: $1,075,000

External Funding Secured: $674,225



A Statewide Network of Partners

OSLN's impact is made possible through a diverse network of partners working together to expand access to high-quality STEM education across Ohio. These collaborations connect schools and educators with expertise, resources, learning opportunities, and real-world experiences that strengthen STEM teaching and learning.

Partners across Ohio include:

- Ohio Department of Education & Workforce
- Battelle
- Seven Regional STEM Hubs
- ESCs
- School districts and local education agencies
- STEM and STEAM designated schools
- Higher education institutions
- Industry and employer partners
- Community and nonprofit organizations
- Workforce and economic development organizations

Looking Ahead

Expanding Pathways to STEM Excellence

As Ohio's STEM needs continually evolve, OSLN is expanding its impact through new strategies, partnerships, and resources designed to strengthen education-to-workforce pathways, accelerate innovation, and support schools at every stage of their STEM journey.

New Tools and Resources for STEM Transformation

To support the next phase of OSLN's work, new statewide resources and frameworks are being developed to help schools, educators, and partners accelerate implementation, strengthen collaboration, and expand access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities.

STEM Innovation Roadmap

A comprehensive framework designed to help schools assess their current STEM implementation, identify priorities for growth, and develop a strategic plan for continuous improvement. The Roadmap provides a clear pathway for schools to advance STEM practices, strengthen systems, and move toward long-term sustainability.

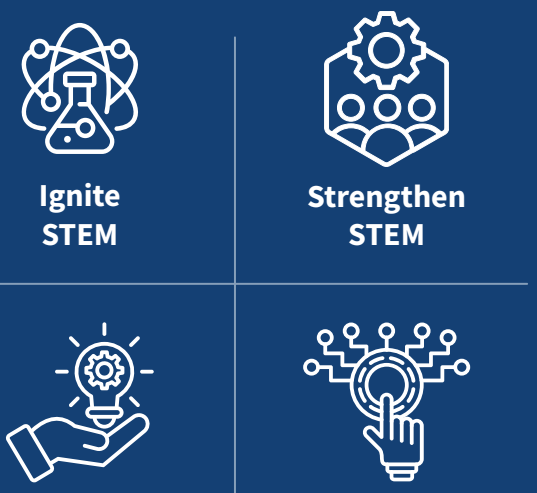
OSLN Learning Suite

A growing collection of online, on-demand professional learning courses that help educators build knowledge and skills in STEM pedagogy, inquiry-based learning, project-based learning, leadership, and instructional innovation. The Learning Suite expands access to high-quality STEM learning regardless of location or experience level.

Partnership Playbook

A practical resource designed to help schools build, strengthen, and sustain meaningful partnerships with industry, higher education, community organizations, and workforce partners. The Playbook provides tools, examples, and strategies for creating authentic learning experiences that connect students to real-world opportunities.

By expanding access, strengthening systems, advancing innovation, and activating STEM futures, OSLN is helping ensure every Ohio student is prepared to thrive in an increasingly complex, technology-driven world.



About Our Team

OSLN is powered by a dedicated team of education professionals who collaborate with educators, leaders, higher education, and workforce and industry partners to expand access to high-quality STEM learning across Ohio. Our team combines expertise in teaching and learning, leadership development, school improvement, workforce-connected learning, computer science education, and statewide network building. Together with our regional STEM hubs and statewide partners, we help connect educators to the resources, relationships, and opportunities that make lasting STEM transformation possible.

Connect With Us

Stay connected with OSLN and be the first to learn about professional learning opportunities, funding initiatives, STEM designation resources, statewide events, computer science programs, and innovative practices from educators across Ohio. Whether you are just beginning your STEM journey or looking to deepen and sustain implementation, OSLN is here to support your next step.




Ohio STEM Learning Network



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