The Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Program

Request for Proposals and Guidelines for Submission

Proposals Due September 2, 2025, by 11:59PM

Ohio STEM Learning Network

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About the Ohio STEM Learning Network

The network was formed in 2008 as a public-private partnership between Battelle and the State of Ohio.

Ohio STEM Learning Network

A public-private partnership of:

BATTELLE | Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Introduction

The Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Program, sponsored by Battelle, is designed to fund STEM learning projects in classrooms and schools in Ohio.

Every day, the people of Battelle apply science and technology to solve the problems that matter the most. At major technology centers and national laboratories throughout the world, Battelle conducts research and development, designs, and manufactures products, and delivers critical services for government and commercial customers. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, since its founding in 1929, Battelle serves the national security, health and life sciences, and energy and environmental industries.

Battelle's founder, Gordon Battelle, believed that innovative science could and should benefit society at large. For years, we have given back through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. More than simply awarding grants, we have become leaders in STEM education, helping to shape innovative approaches to learning across the country. This effort started in 2006, when Battelle founded Metro Early College High School, Ohio's first STEM high school. We manage three STEM networks, the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN), Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) and our national network, STEMx impacting over 350,000 students each year. Through the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) alone, Battelle impacts more than 63,000 students across the state in more than 79 schools and training centers.

Instead of thinking of "STEM" as four subjects, we see it more universally as "Strategies That Engage Minds™." STEM education lets students learn by doing, investigating concepts rather than memorizing facts. STEM's central tenets of critical thinking and collaboration are applicable across all subject areas. Creative disciplines such as art, music, and theater have the potential to engage students with STEM in novel and unique ways.

In keeping with both our strategic emphasis on innovative, interdisciplinary learning and our history of charitable giving, Battelle is excited to offer this competitive grant program. We hope to challenge the Ohio school community to pilot the development or expansion of sustainable STEM education programs. Battelle is requesting proposals for cutting-edge programming that engages more students in authentic STEM learning experiences.

Program Objectives

The goal of this competitive grant program is to fund the creation or expansion of sustainable STEM education in classrooms across Ohio.

All applications must show how they include elements from each domain of the [Ohio STEM and STEAM Rubric](#):

Domain 1: Culture for Learning (required)

- **Fostering a STEM Culture**
  Support students in developing important skills such as innovation, curiosity, entrepreneurship, and teamwork, while also encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning.

Domain 2: Learning and Teaching (choose one or more)

- **Integrating Academic Disciplines**
  Connect at least two different subject areas (e.g., science and social studies) using learning goals from each subject's standards.

- **Problem or Project-Based Learning and Design Thinking**
  Engage students in real-world problem solving using design thinking and problem-based or project-based learning.

- **Using Modern Technology**
  Equip and educate students to effectively use and apply modern technology, computational thinking, and/or computer science tools to address real-world challenges.

- **Personalized Learning**
  Identify and implement strategies to meet the unique needs and interests of each student.

Domain 3: Pathways to Success in STEM Careers (choose one or more)

- **Career Connections and Industry Awareness (required)**
  Provide age-appropriate opportunities for students to learn about real STEM/STEAM careers and how their classroom learning connects to these fields.

- **Real-World Partnerships**
  Collaborate with local businesses, community groups, or colleges to bring real-world problems into the classroom for students to solve.

- **Community Learning**
  Connect students with their local community through learning experiences.

Program Guidelines

Application Window

The application opens July 29, 2025, and closes September 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding:

- Must be an educator at an Ohio public, charter, or independent STEM school serving grades K–12.

- Each applicant must use or create an individual account in the grant portal to submit an application. **Only one submission per applicant will be accepted**; multiple submissions from the same applicant will not be considered.

- Multiple applicants from the same school may apply. OSLN reserves the right to limit the number of grants awarded to any individual school or district.

- Educational Service Centers (ESCs) may not apply directly but may act as the fiscal agent for an eligible public or charter school applicant.

- Proposed projects must clearly benefit a specific classroom or group of classrooms within a single school during the 2025-2026 school year.

- Applications must be the original, unique work of the applicant. Submissions that include duplicated or copied content will be disqualified.

Ineligible

Applications will be considered ineligible under the following conditions:

- The applicant has previously received an OSLN STEM Classroom Grant **and** has not yet implemented the funded project or submitted the required Student Impact Report.

- More than one application has been submitted by the same individual during the current grant cycle.

- The application contains language that is identical or substantially similar to another submission.

- The applicant is an ESC applying directly, rather than serving as a fiscal agent for an eligible school.

Funding Guidelines

Applicants may apply for a one-time grant of either $2,500 or $5,000. Grant funds may not be used for cash, gift cards, salaries, food, furniture, general office supplies not related to STEM activities, or sports. Travel may be included but must not exceed 20% of the total requested funding.

Grant awards must be disbursed to an organization that is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c)(3) or a governmental entity.

A current, signed IRS Form W9, issued in the name of the applicant's school district (or fiscal agent) must be submitted with the application.

Guidelines for Spending

All awarded funds must be spent by **June 1, 2026**, in accordance with the budget and scope outlined in the approved grant application.

All items purchased with the grant funds become property of the school and must remain with the school if the grantee (e.g., educator) leaves the institution.

Grantees are required to complete an online Student Impact Report, which must include a summary of how the funds were used, a brief description of the project's implementation and outcomes, the number of educators and students served, and at least one photograph. A report template will be provided by OSLN prior to the reporting period.

The Student Impact Report will open on May 1, 2026, and must be submitted no later than June 30, 2026.

Preparation of Proposal

OSLN appreciates clear, concise, complete, carefully written proposals that meet all guidelines. We strongly recommend you follow the checklist below before starting the application.

Application Checklist

- Review and familiarize yourself with this RFP.
- Download the Application Preview document and prepare your responses. It is best to complete the application responses in a Notepad document, then copy and paste the text into the online application.
- Download and complete the Budget Template.
- Obtain a current (signed within the last 12 months) W9 for your school district or fiscal agent.

Application Overview

The proposal application will contain the following sections:

1. Applicant Information
2. School Information
3. Proposal Information
4. Student Learning Outcomes
5. Budget
6. Fiscal Agent: School District Information
7. W9 and Payment Information
8. Terms and Conditions
9. Conclusion

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed according to a process established by Battelle. Battelle reserves the right to solicit additional information and to make suggestions for modifications.

Reviewers will evaluate and score applications based on the criteria outlined in the table below.

Evaluation Criteria and Weightings

Criteria	Point Value
Project Narrative	(35 points)
- Does the application clearly describe the project? - Is there a clear timeline for implementation? - Is this a unique, innovative, and/or creative idea? - Does the project align to the following areas of focus? **Culture for Learning (required)** **Fostering a STEM Culture** Support students in developing important skills such as innovation, curiosity, entrepreneurship, and teamwork, while also encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning. **Learning and Teaching (choose one or more)** **Integrating Academic Disciplines** Connect at least two different subject areas (e.g., science and social studies) using learning goals from each subject's standards. **Problem or Project-Based Learning and Design Thinking** Engage students in real-world problem solving using design thinking and problem-based or project-based learning. **Using Modern Technology** Equip and educate students to effectively use and apply modern technology, computational thinking, and/or computer science tools to address real-world challenges. **Personalized Learning** Identify and implement strategies to meet the unique needs and interests of each student. **Pathways to Success in STEM Careers (choose one or more)** **Career Connections and Industry Awareness (required)** Provide age-appropriate opportunities for students to learn about real STEM/STEAM careers and how their classroom learning connects to these fields. **Real-World Partnerships** Collaborate with local businesses, community groups, or colleges to bring real-world problems into the classroom for students to solve. **Community Learning** Connect students with their local community through learning experiences. ***Note****: Priority consideration will be given to projects with real-world partnerships or community learning experiences connecting classroom learning to local needs.*	

Impact	(20 points)
• Does the number of impacted students reflect reasonable value given the scope and depth of the proposed project? • Does the project expand STEM Learning opportunities to those who may have had fewer opportunities in the past?	
Student Learning Outcomes	(25 points)
• Does the application provide a strong explanation of the anticipated learning outcomes? • Are the learning outcomes aligned to the project as described? • Does the application provide a clear measurable method to assess if the intended outcomes were met?	
Budget Template and Narrative	(10 points)
• Can the purchased items be used more than once? • Are the costs listed fair and reasonable for the items requested?	
Target Applicant Populations	(10 points)
• Educators or schools which are new to STEM • Communities and regions of the state with limited access to STEM	

Submission Requirements and Timelines

Timeline

Date	Activity
July 29, 2025	Application Opens
September 2, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.	Application Closes Submit application and necessary documents here: https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/OSLN
October 2025	Awards Announced
December 2025	Award Funds Received
June 1, 2026	Award funds must be spent in full
May 1, 2026	Student Impact Report Opens
June 30, 2026	Student Impact Report Due

Final Proposal

The final application must be submitted online at: https://www.cybergrants.com/battelle/OSLN

All applicants must complete an eligibility quiz prior to accessing the full application.

Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

New for 2025: Each applicant is required to use or create an individual account in the grant portal to submit an application.

Notice of Award

The applicant will be notified via email once the final award decisions are made.

Contact Information

Please send all RFP-related questions to OSLN@battelle.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What projects are NOT eligible for a grant?

A: Projects for out-of-classroom learning, such as robotics clubs, after-school programs, and summer camps, are not eligible. Funding may not be used for cash, gift cards, salaries, food, furniture, general office supplies unrelated to STEM activities, or sports. Travel expenses are permitted but may not exceed 20% of the total budget.

Q: I can't get the online application to work. Can I apply via email?

A: No, all applications must be submitted through the online grant portal. If you experience access issues at your school, please use a different computer or connect to a non-school Wi-Fi network.

Q: Can previously awarded applicants apply for new funding?

A: Yes. To be eligible, previously awarded applicants must have spent all the awarded funds, completed the project, **and** submitted their Student Impact Report.

Q: Can I apply for more than one grant?

A: No. Each educator may submit only one application per grant cycle. If multiple applications are received, only the first will be considered.

Q: How should I get started?

A: Start with this blog post detailing 7 tips for getting your grant funded. Be sure to review the 3 examples of past, successful proposals.

Q: A vendor wrote my application for me, is that ok?

A: No, your application should be your own, unique work.

Q: My team collaborated on our grant application, and are each submitting the grant applications utilizing the same language, is that okay?

A: No, multiple applications with the same language will be disqualified.

Q: Can my school apply for more than one grant?

A: Yes. Multiple applications from a school or district are permitted if each proposes a distinct project. OSLN reserves the right to limit the number of awards to an individual school or district.

Q: Can our district submit an application?

A: School districts are not eligible to apply directly. This grant program is intended to support an individual classroom or group of classrooms within a single school. If a proposed project serves multiple schools, the applicant must select one specific school to submit the application under.

Q: Can ESCs apply for funding to distribute to multiple schools that it serves?

A: ESCs are not eligible to apply but may serve as the fiscal agent for a public or charter school applicant.

Q: Is it acceptable for my budget to exceed or fall short of the $2,500 or $5,000 funding request?

A: No. Proposals must include a budget that equals the exact funding amount requested. Applications with budgets that do not match the requested amount will be disqualified from consideration.

Q: Where can I get help with my school district's W9?

A: Contact your school bookkeeper or school district's finance office for assistance with the W9.

Q: Do I have to have the exact pricing for each item on my budget?

A: Exact pricing is not required; however, applicants are expected to provide reasonable and well-researched estimates. Budgets should reflect current market conditions and account for potential fluctuations in cost and availability to ensure accuracy and feasibility.

Q: When will I be notified? Will I be notified if I don't win?

A: All applicants will be notified of their award decision, whether selected for funding or not, by mid-October 2025. Notifications will be sent to the applicant's email address.

Q: If awarded, when can I expect to receive funds?

A: Funding is expected to be disbursed in November and received by the school district/fiscal agent in December 2025. To facilitate timely payment, applicants must submit a valid W-9 as part of the application. Please coordinate with your school bookkeeper or school district's finance office to ensure accuracy. Submission of an incorrect W-9 may result in delays.

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