

Checklist: STEM and STEAM Designation School Self-Assessment

This condensed School Self-Assessment Checklist is designed to provide a quick, high-level snapshot of a school's implementation of STEM and STEAM practices. It can be used during walkthroughs, leadership meetings, coaching sessions, or program reflections to identify strengths, monitor progress, and highlight opportunities for growth.

STEM Culture & Values

- School values align with innovation, inquiry, collaboration, and entrepreneurial spirit
- School values are visible throughout classrooms and common spaces
- Students can explain the school's values

Inclusive Mission

- Participation in programs reflects school demographics
- Teachers use student cultures/languages/experiences in lessons
- Students see their cultures/languages/experiences reflected in learning

Leadership & Systems

- Teachers have regular interdisciplinary collaboration time
- Leadership communicates and supports expectations for STEM instruction

Integration of Disciplines

- Teachers create and implement lessons integrating two or more disciplines
- Students can describe recent integrated lessons

Design Thinking

- Teachers use the design thinking process in instruction
- Students can explain the design process
- Students give examples of using the design process in different classes

Authentic Learning

- Teachers implement problem-based or project-based learning
- Students present learning to authentic audiences

Personalized Learning

- Students set goals, monitor progress, and have voice/choice
- Students have opportunities to show mastery or competency
- Teachers use adaptable assessments

Professional Development

- Teachers engage in relevant, ongoing STEM-related PD

Career Connections

- Teachers connect instruction to STEM/STEAM careers
- Students can give examples of exploring STEM/STEAM careers

Partnerships

- Teachers collaborate with business/industry/community partners
- Students solve authentic problems from partners
- Teachers create learning experiences relevant to students and their community

High School Only

- Students participate in work-based learning
- Students earn college credit, credentials, or certifications