

Requirements for Site Visit Participation

For currently designated STEM and STEAM schools:

Currently designated STEM and STEAM schools applying for an additional five years of designation will need to meet several requirements in order to participate in a site visit. The Ohio STEM Learning Network will make a recommendation for site visit participation based on the evidence provided by the school in their written application for STEM or STEAM designation.

Benchmark for site visit participation:

- The school's habits of mind (community values) appear to align with STEM cultural strategies of innovation, inquiry, collaboration with individual accountability, and an entrepreneurial spirit (1.1 Cultural Strategies)
- The school calendar, master schedule, and professional development schedule indicate school structures that promote or sustain interdisciplinary teacher collaboration (1.3 School Leadership)
- The school's governing body/STEM or STEAM advisory group consists of members selected for their expertise in STEM/STEAM pedagogy. The school's curriculum team includes all the required members: the school's chief administrative officer, a teacher, a representative of the higher education partner and a member of the public with expertise in the STEM/STEAM disciplines (1.4 Governing Body, STEM/STEAM Advisory Group and Curriculum Team)
- The school provides evidence sufficient to earn Establishing on attribute 2.1 Integration of Academic Disciplines
- The school provides evidence sufficient to earn Establishing on attribute 2.2 Teaching and Learning Approaches
- The school submits letters from its established Higher Education and Business and Industry partners. The letters, dated within the last 12 months, detailed the partnership between the school and the organizations.

If the site visit benchmark is not met, OSLN will email the school with identified areas of concerns and return the corresponding applications in SlideRoom. The school will have 48 hours to upload additional evidence pertaining to the site visit requirements only.

OSLN and ODEW will review the additional evidence. If the site visit benchmark is met, the review process will continue. If the site visit benchmark is still not met, indicating that the key requirements of STEM or STEAM designation (as outlined in the site visit requirements) are not in place, the school will not participate in a formal site visit. Instead, OSLN will make the recommendation during the next STEM Committee meeting that the school be placed on the corrective action (growth) plan, and ODEW and OSLN will initiate the plan development. This may include an informal visit to the school to observe classrooms, talk with teachers and leadership, etc. in order to inform the growth plan.

For schools seeking initial designation:

If a school applying for initial STEM or STEAM designation earns the Emerging rating on five or more attributes, the school will not be able to participate in a site visit. The Ohio STEM Learning Network will make a recommendation for site visit participation based on the evidence provided by the school in their written application for STEM or STEAM designation.

If the benchmark is not met, the OSLN and ODEW representatives will meet with the school leadership, share the feedback based on the written application, and offer supports for strengthening and advancing the school's STEM cultural and instructional practices.