

2021 – 2022 Academic Year

The Ohio STEM Learning Network STEM Classroom Grant Program

Request for Proposals and Guidelines for Submission

Proposals Due December 2, 2021

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 launch 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.

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Program Objectives

The goal of this competitive grant program is to fund the development or expansion of sustainable STEM education programming in classrooms and schools across Ohio. To be considered, projects should align to one of the following focus areas:

1. Community Problem Solving
2. STEM Career Exploration
3. Building STEM Mindsets
4. Design Thinking and Infrastructure

Program Guidelines

Applications for the 2021-2022 school year open October 21, 2021, and close December 2, 2021.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are teachers or school administrators in public or private schools, grades K through 12. Schools must be in Ohio.

Funding Guidelines

Applicants may apply for either a \$2,500.00 or \$5,000.00 classroom grant. The award will be a one-time grant. Funds may not be used for furniture, cash, gift cards, travel, salary, food, general office supplies not related to STEM activities, or sports.

Awards must be made to an organization or fiscal agent that is tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3) or a governmental agency. A current and signed W9 must be submitted with the application.

Guidelines for Spending

All awarded funds must be spent by June 1, 2022 and in the manner outlined in the accepted grant application.

Everything purchased with the grant funds is to become property of the school/organization and must stay with the school/organization if the grantee (i.e. teacher) were to depart.

Grantees will be required to complete online reports, which include providing an explanation of how the funds were used, a brief description of the implementation of the project and at least one photograph.

An expense report is due on or before June 30, 2021. A report template will be provided by OSLN in advance.

Preparation of Proposal

OSLN appreciates clear, concise, complete, carefully written proposals that meet all guidelines. We strongly recommend you follow the checklist steps below before starting the application. The application portal does not allow you to save your work and return later.

Application Checklist

- Download the [application preview document](#) to view the full application and prepare your responses. It is best to complete the application responses in a Microsoft Word document and then cut and paste the text into the online application.
- Download and complete the Excel [budget template](#) and have it ready to be uploaded.
- Secure a current copy of your district or fiscal agent's W9 and have it ready to be uploaded.
- Review this Request for Proposals in full, including the FAQ's.

Application Overview

The proposal application contains the following sections:

1. Applicant Information
2. School Information
3. School District Information
4. History of Previous Funding
5. Proposal Information
6. Student Learning Outcomes
7. Budget
8. Terms and Conditions
9. Fiscal Agent's W9 Information

Please be sure to use the [application preview document](#) for complete details on each of the sections listed above. The preview document is a reproduction of the online application and is a tool to help applicants prepare prior to submitting the application.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

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

Reviewers will score the applications and base their scoring decisions and funding recommendations on the evaluation criteria in the table below. Proposals must address all evaluation criteria.

Proposal Criteria and Weightings

Criteria	Point Value
Project Narrative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the application clearly describe the project? • Does the project align to one or more of the areas of focus? • Does the project incorporate design thinking? • Does the project involve a community partner? • Does the project promote 21st century skills? • Does the project enhance college and career readiness? • Is the project collaborative/interdisciplinary across subjects/grades/etc.? • Is this a unique, innovative, and/or creative idea? 	
Impact	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project impact a high percentage of students? • Does the project expose traditionally underserved students to STEM learning? 	
Student Learning Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the application provide a strong explanation of the anticipated learning outcomes? • Does the application explain how this project will deepen students' understanding of STEM? • Does the application provide a clear measurable method to assess if the intended outcomes were met? 	
Budget Template and Narrative	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the purchased items be used more than once? • Are the costs listed fair and reasonable for the items requested? 	

Submission Requirements and Timelines

Final Proposal

The final application must be submitted online here:
<https://battelleeducation.typeform.com/OSLNGrants2022>

Be prepared to complete the entire application, including uploading documents, in one sitting. You will not be able to leave the application and come back to finish later. It is recommended that you complete the application in a Microsoft Word document and cut and past the text into the online application.

Late or incomplete proposals will not be accepted.

Timeline

Date	Activity
October 21, 2021	Open Request for Proposals
December 2, 2021	Proposals DUE by 11:59 PM Submit proposal online here: https://battelleeducation.typeform.com/OSLNGrants2022
Mid-January 2022	Awards announced
Mid-February 2022	Funds dispersed
June 1, 2022	Awarded funds must be spent in full
June 30, 2022	Grantee final grant report due

Notice of Award

Once the award decisions are made, the applicant listed in the proposal will be notified via email in January 2022.

Contact Information

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

Funded Project Examples

Example Project: No Dirt, No Problem! School-wide STEM Vertical Gardening

School: Elementary

Focus: Community Problem Solving

Short description: For this project, students research, design, and launch a plan to grow crops without soil. Students help develop an edible community garden and utilize an automatic vertical hydroponic system. They work together to investigate, create, and communicate ideas related to the topic of food security for our community and state. Through an outdoor classroom, students learn about innovations and agricultural concepts that span across math, science, art, health, social studies, and technology. Throughout the project, students monitor, compare, measure, test, and alter the conditions to best support the plants. These new outdoor skills can be taken home to their families and they strengthen the relationship between the school and community.

Example Project: River Water Study

School: High School

Focus: STEM Career Exploration

Short description: This project provides the tools for the High School's Ecology class to conduct a semester-long study of the water quality in the Sequatchie River. Four sites are utilized along the river: two upstream and two downstream of the sewage treatment plant. Students test for nitrates, phosphates, silica and pH. Carbon dioxide, water hardness and dissolved oxygen are also studied, in addition to a test for bacterial (coliform) pollution.

The students also collect and identify micro and macro invertebrates in the river. This project allows students to explore the work of an ecologist while discovering the value of macro invertebrates as living indicators of water quality. The data collected is then analyzed by the students at the end of the semester, and the students create videos and presentations to showcase their testing and findings.

Example Project: Pedal Power!

School: Middle School

Focus: Design Thinking and Infrastructure

Short description: This project is designed to motivate students to exercise while teaching them concepts in STEM. The project allows students to collaboratively design bicycles that can create and capture electricity into a usable power source. Lessons include electricity, sustainable energy sources, technology, engineering, design and various math concepts. The students are able to take a battery pack that is empty and, by riding the bicycles they built, produce electricity to recharge the battery. The project collaborates with teachers in subjects across the curriculum including P.E., science, math and physics.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

No. We understand prices can change over time and vary by store. Just estimate as closely as possible.

What projects are NOT eligible for a grant?

Funds may not be used for furniture, cash, gift cards, travel, salary, food, general office supplies not related to STEM activities, or sports.

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

No. All applications must come through the online form. If your school internet or computer blocks TypeForm, please try applying with a different browser, on a Wi-Fi connection from home or a public place outside of your school building.

Can my school apply for more than one grant? Can I apply for more than one grant?

Yes. We cannot guarantee we will be able to fund multiple grants from one school or person, but you are more than welcome to apply with as many ideas as you would like.

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

If we receive multiple applications with the same language written by a vendor, those applications will be disqualified. Your application should be your own, unique work.

When will I be notified? Will I be notified if I didn't win?

All applicants will be notified of their award results mid-late January 2022.

If my application is funded, when can I expect to receive funds?

Grantees can expect to receive their funding in mid-February. We are collecting applicant school/district W9 forms as a part of the application process to expediate the timeline to issue checks to awardees. Please be sure to work with your school bookkeeper or district financial office to submit the correct W9. Incorrect submission of your W9 may delay your receipt of funding.

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

Please contact your school bookkeeper or district financial office for assistance with your school/district W9.

Is the OSLN STEM Classroom Grant Program replacing Battelle's STEM Grant Program?

No. They are different grant programs. Battelle will continue offer the STEM Grant Program to Central Ohio community nonprofits.

Are private or parochial schools eligible to apply?

Yes, so long as the fiscal agent associated with the grant has a 501(c)(3) tax status.

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It can be done