Washington Office of Superintendent of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STEM Lighthouse Projects

1. Purpose:

The purpose of these funds is to designate schools at the elementary, middle, and high school level as models of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. These STEM Lighthouse Schools, are to serve as resources and examples of best practices in STEM instruction to other Washington schools.

2. Description of services provided:

Competitive grant funding of up to $20,000 per award is available for schools to be selected as a STEM Lighthouse school. Identified STEM Lighthouse schools work in cooperation with OSPI to provide demonstration of best practices in STEM instruction to encourage other schools and communities to replicate similar models.

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

Schools that have an established successful program in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) apply to OSPI for a grant. Best practices identified include; a small, highly personalized learning community; interdisciplinary curriculum with a strong focus on STEM delivered through a project-based instructional approach; and active partnerships with businesses and the local community to connect learning beyond the classroom. Selected grantees must provide technical assistance and advice to other schools and communities in initial stages of creating learning environments focused on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	3
Number of Schools:	3
Number of Students:	0
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	Educational Service Districts (ESDs)

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding:

State Appropriation:	$135,000
Federal Appropriation:	$0
Other Fund Sources:	$0
TOTAL (FY22)	$135,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2022	$135,000	$90,000
2021	$135,000	$100,963
2020	$135,000	$122,295
2019	$135,000	$126,131
2018	$135,000	$121,738

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
FY 21	3
FY 20	6
FY 19	6
FY 18	6

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

In FY 2017, 2 different grant packages were opened to increase participation. This includes Form Package 545: High Schools, and Form Package 834: Middle Schools. This has been changed back to a single form package, Form Package 545, to include Elementary, Middle School and High School applications.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

OSPI staff are working to increase opportunities to gather best practices and create opportunities for shared professional development among grantees to additional school districts to encourage new applicants.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

The greatest challenge for the schools that receive the grant is creating new and viable opportunities for other schools to experience their professional development and replicate similar STEM educational models.

10. Future opportunities:

OSPI is requesting selected applicants participate in structured professional development opportunities to promote the STEM Lighthouse Program and exploring more virtual based opportunities. Additionally, OSPI is looking for more funding to increase the opportunities for schools to promote their STEM successes with other STEM programs.

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(4)(b) - $135,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and $135,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for science, technology, engineering and mathematics lighthouse projects, consistent with [chapter 238, Laws of 2010](#).

12. Other relevant information:

This work is authorized by chapter 238, laws of 2010 (HB 2621).

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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