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# Request for Applications (RFA) Designated STEM School Network Grant FY27

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

<b>Objective:</b>	To support and fund ongoing growth of Nevada Governor Designated STEM Schools through targeted STEM professional learning and instructional planning. See the Nevada STEM Framework for more information regarding the designation. <a href="https://www.osit.nv.gov/">https://www.osit.nv.gov/</a>
<b>Proposals Due:</b>	May 8, 2026 5:00 p.m. PST
<b>Funding Available:</b>	\$300,000
<b>Structure:</b>	Reimbursement
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Any current Nevada Governor Designated STEM School.
<b>Contact:</b>	Lis Dziminski <a href="mailto:LDziminski@gov.nv.gov">LDziminski@gov.nv.gov</a>



## Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology Request for Applications - Designated STEM Schools Grant

### INTRODUCTION:

The Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) of Nevada was established by the Legislature (NRS 223.600) to promote, coordinate and align education, workforce, and economic development and diversification efforts in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). OSIT identifies and awards Governor's STEM School Designees throughout Nevada. OSIT developed and uses the [Nevada STEM Framework](#) to identify high-quality STEM schools in Nevada.

Designated STEM schools have school-wide systems in place to support STEM learning experiences, implement high-quality hands-on instruction, and partner with the community to develop relationships and authentic learning opportunities. Designated STEM schools understand the need for ongoing reflection, professional learning, and teacher planning opportunities to continually improve student learning experiences. OSIT desires to assist schools as they invest in their educators and develop their capacity to deliver high-quality STEM instruction to their students.

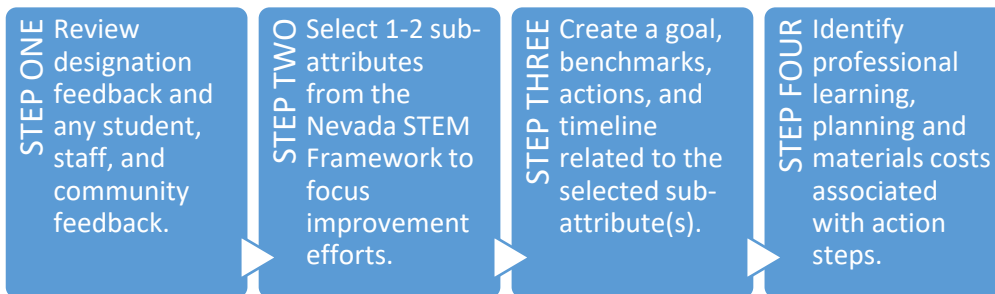
### SECTION I: DESIRED OUTCOMES

This grant opportunity supports Designated STEM schools in offering STEM-related professional learning or planning opportunities to educators. Funds should be used to target specific learning and/or planning actions that will advance the STEM school along the [Nevada STEM Framework](#). Successful applicants for funding will clearly articulate how proposed projects and actions will support the school's development around one or more attributes on the [Nevada STEM Framework](#).

### SECTION II: GRANT INFORMATION

#### Project Structure:

Funds from a grant award must be used to support development of high-quality STEM attributes, as described in the [Nevada STEM Framework](#). The proposed project must make a clear connection to the school's goals. Use steps one through four from the graphic below to plan the project. See an example plan [here](#).





Grant awards may be used to fund professional learning and planning expenses:

- STEM-related professional learning vendor fees;
- Stipends or extra duty pay for educators to plan high-quality STEM instruction or attend professional learning opportunities outside of regular contract hours;
- Funding for substitutes to allow educators to plan high-quality STEM instruction or attend professional learning opportunities during the school day;
- Curriculum and materials required for targeted STEM professional learning;
- Materials, supplies, or equipment needed to implement teacher-developed, high-quality STEM instruction.

Eligibility Information:

Any Nevada Governor's Designated STEM School.

**SECTION III: AWARD INFORMATION**

Awards Process:

A competitive process will be used to determine awards. All responses that meet the minimum requirements outlined below in Section IV will be scored by OSIT staff. OSIT reserves the right to determine the number of awards for this grant cycle, based on funds available and projects selected.

Spending Timeframes:

All funding must be spent by June 30, 2027. In most cases, this means that professional learning or planning funded by the grant must occur prior to June 30, 2027, unless the applicant seeks funding for outside professional learning where it is customary to prepay for a program that takes place at a later date. Contact your district grants department to confirm prepayment allowances. Please see the Reporting Requirements section below for more details regarding spending and reporting.

**SECTION IV: APPLICATION & SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

Application Requirements:

**READ CAREFULLY:** Please respond to each of the following questions below. Answer each question individually, label each question with the corresponding number, and limit answers to 150 words or less. Please be as thorough and detailed as possible in your answers within the word limits. Illustrate a clear connection between the school's designation feedback, the planned project, and the funding request. After reading Section IV carefully, [you can download an application template here](#). Download a copy of the template, fill it out completely, save as a PDF, and upload to <https://forms.gle/HpkGiyXY2HKeEFQr8>.

**Incomplete or late applications will not be scored for funding consideration.**



Application:

1. Applicant Information  
Applicant name, phone number, email address, and job title
2. School Information  
School name, full address, district, phone number, website, grade levels offered, number of students enrolled
3. Project Information  
Project title, type (professional learning, planning, or both), and proposed dollar amount
4. School Administrator Information (overall project responsibility)  
Full name, title, phone number, email address
5. Project Contact (daily project contact – if different than school administrator)  
Full name, title, phone number, email address
6. Grant Department Contact (daily contact for grant/fiscal matters)  
Full name, title, phone number, email address
7. Project Plan:
  - a. Summarize the school's strengths and needs, referencing designation feedback from OSIT, the school's self-evaluations, and any other relevant data.
  - b. Identify 1-2 sub-attributes from the [Nevada STEM Framework](#) on which the project will focus.
  - c. State the school's goal for the project.
  - d. Describe the project's timeline, including milestone achievements, deadlines, and specific actions. Provide applicable details including, but not limited to, who is participating in the project, who is providing professional training, when and where staff will meet and what they will accomplish.
  - e. What is the project's impact on students?
  - f. How and when will the school measure the success of the project?
8. Budget Plan:

The applicant is required to submit a budget *table* and a budget *narrative*.

  - The budget table should be completed in the template provided in Attachment A. Costs should be broken down into individual line items. All project costs should be included. See Attachment A for additional instructions.
  - The budget narrative must demonstrate a clear and strong relationship between the project's expenses, the project's goals and activities, and the [Nevada STEM Framework](#). The budget narrative should be detailed, reasonable and adequate, and cost efficient. The narrative should focus on explaining expenses, not listing or summarizing them. From the budget narrative, the reviewer should be able to assess how the budget expenditures relate directly to the goals of the project and the [Nevada STEM Framework](#).

Letters of Commitment

Provide a letter of commitment from the school administrator, signed and on letterhead. Provide a letter of commitment from any partners needed in the execution of the project, if possible.

**Projects without a letter of commitment from the school administrator will not be considered for funding.**



## **Submission Timeline and Instructions**

Submit one (1) electronic copy of the application in a PDF by 5:00 p.m., PST May 8, 2026 to:

<https://forms.gle/xkTMJZwUXgMeSCzaA>

Contact [LDziminski@gov.nv.gov](mailto:LDziminski@gov.nv.gov) for technical assistance.

## **Tips & Common Pitfalls to Avoid**

- Ensure budget figures are mathematically correct, and the total of the budget summary matches the total on the title page.
- Observe page limits (any pages over the page limit will not be reviewed).
- Follow stated formatting guidelines.
- Respond to all sections of the application; ensure the thread that ties the application sections together are related.
- Supplanting - Grant funds may not be used to replace federal, state, or local funds that are currently being used or are forthcoming.
- Spell out acronyms at initial use. Eliminate jargon whenever possible.
- Do not assume reviewers are familiar with existing projects.
- Read the Request for Application (RFA) carefully.
- Submit applications early in case revisions need to be made.

## **SECTION V: AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### *Available Funding:*

A competitive process will be used to distribute \$300,000. The number of awards and the amount of funding awarded will depend on the quantity and quality of applications received. OSIT reserves the right to offer and award partial funding.

### *Application Review and Selection Process*

Eligible applications are complete, submitted before the deadline, follow all formatting rules, and are aligned to the award goals and objectives as described in this Request for Applications. Once the due date has passed, all eligible applications will be reviewed, evaluated, and competitively scored by OSIT staff. See Attachment B for the scoring rubric. OSIT will score each eligible application and then conduct a review session, during which time reviewers will discuss each application, in descending order of average scores. Reviewers will share application highlights and any concerns or questions they have. The team will determine if applications are funded in full, conditionally, partially, or not at all. OSIT reserves the right to award all, part or none of the available grant funding during this grant round.

The application review and selection process for grants typically takes 4-6 weeks. The process may take less or more time, depending on the size of the application pool.

### *Award Notifications*

Once proposals are selected for funding, OSIT will begin finalizing offers. If needed, OSIT may reach out to applicants for clarification about the project. Once offers are finalized, OSIT will notify all applicants of decisions. Applicants offered full funding will be provided with directions for completing the award contract. Applicants offered partial funding will be asked to confirm they can complete the project with partial funds. Applicants that



do not receive funding will receive a denial letter detailing reasons the application was not selected for funding. Communications regarding applications and decisions will take place over e-mail.

### Reconsiderations

Any applicant whose proposal has been submitted according to the rules governing the grant process and who is aggrieved by the award decisions made pursuant to these rules may request reconsideration.

Aggrieved applicants should submit a request for an appeal to OSIT within five days of receiving a written grant decision from OSIT. Requests for reconsideration must be in writing and must clearly state how OSIT has erred in following the administrative rules governing the grant process or the procedure outlined in the grant RFA. OSIT will schedule a meeting to hear the reconsideration as expeditiously as possible so all funds can be distributed in a timely fashion, and a final decision will be made within 30 days after such a meeting. Notice of the approval/denial of the appeal will be conducted by OSIT. This procedure concludes the review process.

### Award Contracts

OSIT will create award agreements for each successful proposal. The contract includes award conditions, terms, and instructions for financial and programmatic reporting. The contract also describes the proposed project, budget, and expected outcomes. Once created, OSIT will send the contract to the applicant to review, sign, and return to OSIT. Once signed by the applicant, OSIT will sign and return the fully executed award agreement. Once signed by both parties, the award becomes active.

### Grant Commencement and Duration

Project implementation must be initiated within thirty days (30) after the award period begins. Requests for an exception to this rule must be justified and submitted in writing within thirty days of the award. At the discretion of OSIT, the Grantee risks losing the award if the project does not commence as required.

All grant funding must be spent by June 30, 2027. Grantees must specify in their application the length of the proposed project, including if some aspects of the project will continue or end after June 30, 2027 (see reporting requirements below). By submission of the grant application and acceptance of the award, the applicant is certifying its intention to carry out the proposed project within the project window (date of award to June 30, 2027). There is no expectation of funding beyond awarded grant funds.

## **Section VI: Award Management**

### Reimbursement Notice

The Designated STEM Schools Grant is a reimbursement grant. Grantees are expected to pay expenses up front from their budgets and will be reimbursed for eligible expenses listed in the approved award budget after a review of the expense request form and appropriate backup. Under certain limited circumstances, an advance of funds for specific, approved start-up costs may be requested by the grantee.

### Fiscal Responsibilities

All recipients of funding are required to identify a fiscal agent if the grantee is not its own fiscal agent. All recipients of funding are required to establish and maintain accounting systems and financial records to accurately



account for awarded funds. All grant awards are subject to audits during and within three years after the grant award reporting period has concluded.

### Reporting Requirements

All recipients of funding are required to submit quarterly fiscal reports, quarterly progress reports, and a final evaluation. Recipients have the option of submitting monthly reports in lieu of quarterly reports. The final evaluation is due within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the reporting period. The reporting period is defined as the signature date to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027. Grantees must continue to submit quarterly reports throughout the reporting period and a final evaluation even after all state funding has been spent. The quarterly reports and final evaluation must include the performance measures proposed in the application. OSIT maintains the right to withhold payments if reporting requirements are not met in a timely and efficient manner.

### Report Audits

When Quarterly Financial Reports are submitted, OSIT staff will audit the reports for accuracy, acceptability, and completeness. If audits find insufficient reports, the reports will be returned to the Grantee for revisions. Quarterly Progress Reports will be audited to ensure they provide sufficient details about the status of the project. If Quarterly Progress Reports provide insufficient detail, they will be returned to the Grantee for additional information.

### Final Evaluation

Recipients of funding are required to submit a final evaluation, which is due within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the project period. The project period is defined as the period from the day the award agreement is fully executed to the conclusion of the project as described in the award agreement. Project conclusion may occur after the funding period ends. Project periods and final evaluation expectations will be determined by the Grantee's project proposal and will be outlined in the award agreement. The final evaluation will also include a reflection from the Grantee around project outcomes, implications, recommendations and tips for other designated STEM schools.

### Sub-Awards

Sub-awards may be funded with OSIT grant funding, in accordance with sub-awards described in the work plan of the Grantee's award agreement with OSIT. It is the Grantee's responsibility to develop a sub-award agreement with the Sub-Awardee. The Grantee must monitor sub-awards to ensure budget and programmatic activities are progressing as proposed in the sub-award agreement. The Grantee is responsible for including sub-award activities and spending in the Quarterly Progress and Financial Reports. Grantees must audit reports from Sub-Awardees before submitting reporting materials to OSIT. Grantees are the point-of-contact for Sub-Awardees and any communications from Sub-Awardees to OSIT will be forwarded to the Grantee. OSIT is not responsible for payments to Sub-Awardees.

### Additional Information

All materials submitted regarding this application for OSIT funds becomes the property of the state of Nevada. Upon the funding of the project, the contents of the application will become contractual obligations.



### Bidding Process

The grantee must follow all applicable local, state and/or federal laws pertaining to the expenditure of funds. Proof of Invitation to Bid, contracts, and any other pertinent documentation must be retained by the grantee. Likewise, all local, state, and federal permits required for construction projects must be acquired by the grantee within 90 days after the contract is entered.

### Access for Persons with Disabilities

The grantee shall assure that persons with disabilities are not precluded from using OSIT grant funded facilities. Projects must meet requirements as set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Maintenance and Operation

The grantee is responsible for seeing that OSIT grant funded projects are maintained and operated in a condition equal to what existed when the project was completed; normal wear and tear is accepted. Maintenance and operations standards should be adopted upon completion of the project.

### Signs

Grantee shall post and maintain appropriate permanent signs or decals upon project sites or equipment acknowledging funding assistance from the appropriate grant fund upon the start of the project or purchase of equipment.

### Nondiscrimination

Projects funded with OSIT grant funds shall be available for public use, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or national origin.

In any instance that the grant notice, award, rules, regulations, and procedures are silent – prior written approval is required.

## **SECTION VII: OSIT CONTACTS**

Lis Dziminski  
LDziminski@gov.nv.gov

*Thank you for your interest in applying for the Designated STEM Schools Grant. You will be contacted if further information is required. Do not begin your project or incur costs until you have received a fully executed grant award contract.*



### Attachment A: Budget Template

Professional Learning					
	Fee or Associated Cost - Description	Cost Per Participant, if Applicable	Number of Participants	Total Cost	
1					
2					
3					
Planning					
	Stipend, Extra Duty Pay or Other?	Amount of Incentive	Number of Participants	Number of Hours	Total Cost
1					
2					
3					
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, Curriculum					
	Description of Item	Cost of Item	Number of Items	Total Cost	
1					
2					
3					
Other Expenses					
	Description of Expense	Cost of Expense	Number of Items, if Applicable	Total Cost	
1					
2					
3					
Totals					
	Professional Learning	Planning	Materials, Supplies, Equipment, Curriculum	Other Expenses	<b>Total Request Amount</b>



## Attachment B: Scoring Rubric

<b>Previously Funded</b>	The school has been funded and has a history of poor Grantee responsibility.	The school has been funded before, and is a responsible Grantee.	The school has not yet been funded.
	0pts	1pt	2pts
<b>School Description</b>	The application does not describe the school's strengths and needs and/or does not reference designation feedback.	The application provides adequate description of the school's strengths and needs, citing designation feedback.	The application describes the school's strengths and needs, citing designation feedback and other relevant data. The description creates a clear depiction of the school.
	0-1pts	2-3pts	4-5pts
<b>Project Focus</b>	The project selects more than two attributes from the Framework. Attributes are not related to the needs described in the application and/or each other. The attributes selected will result in a disjointed or unsuccessful project.	The project selects 1-2 attributes from the Framework. Attributes are directly related to the needs described in the application, and are related to each other.	The project selects 1-2 attributes from the Framework. Attributes are directly related to the needs described in the application.
	0-1pts	2-3pts	4-5pts
<b>Project Goals</b>	The project goals are not SMART and/or are not clearly connected to the school's description and selected attributes. It is unclear or unlikely the school will meet the goals.	The project goals are SMART and/or are clearly connected to the school's description and selected attributes.	The project goals are SMART and are clearly connected to the school's description and selected attributes.
	0pts	1-4pts	5pts
<b>Project Timeline</b>	The project timeline is incomplete, leaves reviewers with questions, and/or does not seem feasible.	The project timeline is comprehensive and feasible.	The project timeline is comprehensive, aggressive yet realistic, and elicits confidence from reviewers that the project will succeed by the end of the school year.
	0-1pts	2-3pts	4-5pts
<b>Project Evaluation</b>	The application does not sufficiently describe an evaluation plan.	The application describes an evaluation plan, but the plan could be strengthened.	The application describes an evaluation plan that is comprehensive, targeted, and aligned directly to the project goals.
	0-1pts	2-3pts	4-5pts
<b>Student Impact</b>	The impact to students is unclear or weak.	The project will have a positive impact on students. Aspects of the project could be strengthened (quality, reach, magnitude of impact, connections to other aspects of education).	The project will have a significant impact on students' STEM knowledge, skills, identity, confidence, or retention.
	0pts	1-3pts	4-5pts
<b>Budget</b>	The budget is incomplete, or aspects are unclear or unjustified. Costs are exorbitant.	Budget items are directly related to the project goals and selected attributes. The budget includes descriptions and costs are broken down. Expenses are reasonable.	All budget items are directly related to the project goals and selected attributes. The application describes a clear connection and justification for all items. All items are clearly described and calculated.
	0pts	1-4pts	5pts
<b>Admin Support</b>	Administration does not seem involved and/or supportive.	Administration seems involved and supportive.	It is clear from the application and letter of support that administration is involved and supportive of the project. The project ties into the school's larger STEM goals.
	0pts	1-4pts	5pts