



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

K-5 STEM Grant SFY27

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Purpose:	To increase the prevalence of evidence-based, high-quality STEM practices and programs in Nevada's elementary schools. To increase the use of hands-on, evidence-based, experiential STEM learning in elementary schools. To increase the percentage of elementary schools that teach STEM for three or more hours per week. To increase interest in, awareness of, and achievement in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in elementary schools, particularly amongst groups that are traditionally underserved in STEM.
Proposals Due:	May 8, 2026 by 5:00PM PST
Funding Available:	\$250,000.00 Up to \$2,000 per individual educator ("Classroom Awards"), and/or up to \$25,000 per school ("Program Awards").
Structure:	Reimbursement
Eligibility:	Elementary educators and administrators through their public school district Educators and administrators from Nevada public or charter elementary schools.
Website:	Please check the website OSIT.nv.gov regularly for updates. Additionally, information about past awardees can be found on the OSIT website.
Contact:	Lis Dziminski LDziminski@gov.nv.gov



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS – K-5 STEM GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

INTRODUCTION:

The Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) was established by the Legislature (NRS 223.600) to grow and improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and STEM workforce pathways so that Nevada's workforce can meet the demands of its growing economy.

According to the research, one-third of children lose interest in science by the fourth grade and a child's interest in STEM is largely formed by the time he or she reaches upper elementary and middle school.¹ The same research also finds that early exposure to STEM makes children more likely to succeed in science and pursue STEM fields in college. Yet, just 38% of Nevada's elementary schools report offering STEM during the school day.² The State's goal is to increase the number of students participating in STEM programs in middle and high schools that prepare them for success in post-secondary STEM degrees and careers, and research suggests STEM concepts should first be introduced at the elementary level.³

SECTION I: DESIRED OUTCOMES

Purpose:

This grant seeks to promote access to high-quality STEM programs in elementary schools in order to better prepare students for a career pathway in the New Nevada. This grant program aims to:

1. Increase the prevalence of evidence-based, high-quality formal and informal STEM practices and programs in Nevada's elementary schools.
2. Increase the use of hands-on, evidence-based, experiential STEM learning in grades K-5.
3. Increase the percentage of elementary schools that teach science three plus hours per week.
4. Increase interest in, awareness of, and achievement in the subjects of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in grades K-5.

"Classroom Awards" for individuals (up to \$2,000 each) will be awarded to fund costs associated with enhancing specific STEM projects described in the application by the applicant.

"Program Awards" for schools (up to \$25,000 each) will be awarded to fund costs associated with purchasing, preparing for, and implementing programs on OSIT's STEMList (found at OSIT.nv.gov).

¹ Daugherty, Michael K.; Carter, Vinson; and Swagerty, Lindsey (2016) "Elementary STEM Education: The Future for Technology and Engineering Education?," *Journal of STEM Teacher Education*: Vol. 49 : Iss. 1 , Article 7.

² According to a statewide survey of STEM practices conducted in May, 2016 by the NV STEM Advisory Council.

³ DeJarnette, N. K. (2012). America's children: Providing early exposure to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) initiatives. *Education*, 133(1), 77–84.

⁴ [http://osit.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/osit.nv.gov/Content/STEM/A%20STEM%20Strategic%20Plan%20for%20Nevada%20Final\(1\).pdf](http://osit.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/osit.nv.gov/Content/STEM/A%20STEM%20Strategic%20Plan%20for%20Nevada%20Final(1).pdf)



SECTION II: GRANT OVERVIEW

Eligible Applicants:

Nevada public school districts*, private elementary schools, or charter elementary schools

*Schools and individual educators may apply through their school district.

Eligible Uses of Funds:

For **classroom applications** (applying for up to \$2,000 per educator), funding may be used to purchase materials and supplies needed for specific STEM lessons or units. High-quality materials, supplies, and equipment may include:

- STEM-related equipment;
- Technology;
- STEM instructional kits;
- STEM supplies;
- STEM curriculum; or
- Other STEM educational materials for use in the classroom by students.

For **school applications** (applying for up to \$25,000 per school), funding may be used for costs associated with one of the programs on OSIT's STEMList, including program-related professional development fees, training-related travel, program curriculum and materials. Find the STEMList at OSIT.nv.gov.

Funding Restrictions:

Funding may not be used for:

- Refilling existing programs (funding *can* be used to expand existing programs);
- Fees associated with continuing or updating existing programs;
- Supplies, technology, or other equipment used solely by educators or adults;
- Salaries for educators or adults;
- Food, drinks, or hosting;
- General office supplies, supplies unrelated to STEM, or STEM supplies not related to a specific STEM lesson or unit;
- Indirect costs.

Requests for funding free-time materials, centers, "STEM bins," or supplies not tied to a specific lesson, unit, or curriculum will not be funded.

Targeted Grades:

Grant funds must be exclusively used for elementary school classrooms.

Maximum Award:

Classroom Award: \$2,000 per individual classroom/applicant for STEM projects

Program Award: \$25,000 per school to implement a STEM program from OSIT's STEMList.



Sustainability and Future Funding:

The grant is intended to fund one-time costs for STEM resources that can be used multiple times. Applicants should submit their funding request with no expectation of future grant funds. Applications seeking programs with ongoing costs must describe how they will fund those ongoing costs.

Grantee Requirements:

Awardees will be required to:

- Sign an award contract agreeing to the grant requirements and expectations;
- Provide detailed accounting of how funding is spent, including proof of payment;
- Schedule a school visit with OSIT staff to see your project in action; and
- Provide a report of the project and outcomes.

SECTION III: APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Requirements:

READ CAREFULLY: Please select either the Classroom Application or the Program Application.

Each application consists of four sections: Applicant Information, Project Description, Budget, and Supporting Documents. Please respond to each of the questions. Answer each question individually, label each question with the corresponding number, and limit answers to 200 words or less. Please be as thorough and detailed as possible in your answers within the word limits. Illustrate a clear connection between the funding request and the planned project. After reading Section III carefully, you can download a [Classroom application template here](#) and/or a [Program application template here](#). Download a copy of the template, fill it out completely, save as a PDF, and upload to <https://forms.gle/MBqWAMkPfSXnnrxJ7>.

Classroom Application:

Applicant Information:

1. Applicant name, phone number, email address, and job title.
2. Administrator name, phone number, email address, and job title.
3. What is the name and address of your school?
4. What is the name of your district? For charter schools please indicate “charter.”
5. How many students will participate in this project?
6. What grade(s) are targeted by the project?
7. Have you received K-5 STEM Grant funding from OSIT previously? If so, please briefly describe the project.

Project Description:

Attach the lesson plan(s) or unit overview for which you are requesting funding. The lesson plan(s) or unit overview must include at least:

- Topic
- Grade level(s)
- Nevada Academic Content Standards
- Objectives
- Summary of the activity/lesson/project/unit
- Timeline for implementation
- Assessment Plan



Budget:

Fill out the following table describing your budget request. The budget must include all expenses. Do not estimate, include exact costs. Please include a description of why the item is needed and why the quantity is needed. You will be required to report on your expenditures including providing proof of payment for all expenses, which should match the dollar figures in your budget.

Item	Quantity	Cost	Description
<i>Example: Stream Table</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,195</i>	<i>Build simulated riverbanks and make observations about erosion.</i>
Total:			

1. Will additional funds be required in future years and if so, will your school or classroom budget support those funding needs?
2. How will the STEM activity/lesson/project/unit be affected if not selected for K-5 STEM grant funding?

Supporting Documents:

Applicants must provide a signed and dated letter of commitment from the principal demonstrating their commitment to STEM education and how the proposed project fits into the school's STEM programming. The principal should commit to providing any required resources and time for project implementation. The principal must also commit to supporting the applicant in providing required reports to OSIT detailing how the grant was used, the results of the grant on classroom instruction, lessons learned, and advice for other schools.

Program Application:

Applicant Information:

1. Applicant name, phone number, email address, and job title.
2. Administrator name, phone number, email address, and job title.
3. What is the name and address of your school?
4. What is the name of your district? For charter schools please indicate "charter."
5. How many students will participate in this project?
6. What grade(s) are targeted by the project?
7. Has the school received K-5 STEM Program Grant funding from OSIT previously? If so, please briefly describe the project and the year funds were awarded.

Project Description:

1. For which program on OSIT's STEMList of Recommended STEM Programs are you requesting funding?
2. Briefly describe how the program will be used at your school, including which classes will use the program, how often, and which teachers will receive training to implement the program.
3. Please outline a timeline for the project, including when purchases will be made, when teacher training will occur, and when the project will debut in classrooms.
4. What are your school's plans to sustain the program?
5. Please describe how the project supports the school's long-term STEM goals and plans.

Budget:

Fill out the following table describing your budget request. The budget must include all expenses. Do not estimate, include exact costs. Please include a description of why the item is needed and why the quantity is needed. You will be required to report on your expenditures including providing proof of payment for all expenses, which should match the dollar figures in your budget.



Item	Quantity	Cost	Description
<i>Example: Stream Table</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>\$1,195</i>	<i>Build simulated riverbanks and make observations about erosion.</i>
Total:			

1. Will additional funds be required in future years and if so, will your school or classroom budget support those funding needs?
2. How will the STEM activity/lesson/project/unit be affected if not selected for K-5 STEM grant funding?

Supporting Documents:

Applicants must provide a signed letter of commitment from the principal demonstrating their commitment to STEM education and the proposed project, including allowing for any needed collaboration between teachers, providing additional resources necessary (if any) to use the purchased materials, and time for professional development. The administrator’s letter must commit to providing required reports to OSIT detailing how the grant was used, the results of the grant on classroom instruction, lessons learned, and advice for other schools.

SECTION IV: APPLICATION & SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submit one (1) electronic copy of the application in a single PDF by 5:00 p.m., May 8, 2026, to <https://forms.gle/iaphttp77hDFv7quVA>.

Email LDziminski@gov.nv.gov for technical support.

SECTION V: AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Available Funding:

A competitive process will be used to distribute \$250,000 across Nevada’s schools and classrooms. 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. Please see Section V below for more details.

Grant 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 Attachments for the scoring rubrics. OSIT will then conduct a review session, during which time each application will be discussed, 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.

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. Applications selected to receive a grant award will enter into a contract with OSIT in compliance with the State of Nevada regulations. OSIT reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the available grant funding during this grant round.



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 funding is awarded. Requests for an exception to this rule must be justified and submitted in writing within thirty days of 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. Projects must demonstrate sustainability beyond the initial reporting period. By submission of the grant application and acceptance of the award, the grantee is certifying its intention to continue and sustain the program beyond the initial grant implementation award. There is no expectation of funding beyond awarded grant funds.

SECTION VI: AWARD MANAGEMENT

Reimbursement Notice

The K-5 STEM 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 reimbursement request form and appropriate backup.



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 and quarterly progress reports during the funding period. The funding period is described as the date the award agreement is fully executed to the date the Quarter 4 (April-June) reports are accepted by OSIT. During the funding period, Grantees must continue to submit quarterly reports even after all state funding has been spent. Fiscal reports must include an accounting of State funding and any match funding described in the award agreement. OSIT maintains the right to withhold reimbursement payments if reporting requirements are not met in a timely and satisfactory 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 others.

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 become 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 into.

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.

Prior Written Approval

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

SECTION VI: OSIT CONTACTS

Lis Dziminski
LDziminski@gov.nv.gov

Thank you for your interest in applying for K-5 STEM Grant funding. You will be contacted if further information is required. Do not begin your project or incur costs until you have received a fully executed award contract.



Appendix A: K-5 STEM Classroom Grant | Scoring Guide

<i>Less Likely to be Funded</i>		<i>More Likely to be Funded</i>	
Do the purchases enhance a project?	The materials are the project.	The materials are the project. The teacher builds a project around the materials.	The application describes a STEM project the teacher has created, and the purchases will enhance the project.
	0pts	1-5pts	6-10pts
Is the project standards-aligned?	The application identifies standards that are irrelevant or loosely tied to the project. Standards appear to be an after-thought.	The application identifies standards that make sense with the project, but it is unclear how the teacher intends to successfully support mastery of the standards through the project.	It is obvious the standards and student goals guide the project design. The project and purchases will support student mastery of the selected standards.
	0pts	1-5pts	6-10pts
Innovation (See NV STEM Framework at OSIT.nv.gov)	The project is not innovative.	The project is high-quality or unique.	The project is unique and high-quality.
	0pts	1-4pts	5-7pts
Sustainability	The project is a one-time project.	The teacher hopes to repeat the project, but it is unclear if the teacher will have the resources necessary to repeat the project.	The teacher intends to repeat the project, and it is clear the teacher has the needed resources to repeat the project.
	1pt	2-3pts	4-5pts
Return on Investment (Cost/Student)	Low ROI	Moderate ROI	High ROI
	0-1pt	2pts	3pts
Bonus: Support (Determined by admin letter and application)	The school does not have a STEM environment to support the teacher's STEM initiatives.	It is unclear if the school has a STEM environment to support the teacher's STEM initiatives.	The school does have a STEM environment to support the teacher's STEM initiatives.
	0pts	0pts	2pts
Application Score:			
Total Points Available:			35



Appendix B: K-5 STEM Program Grant | Scoring Guide

		<i>Less Likely to be Funded</i>	<i>More Likely to be Funded</i>	
School STEM Vision	The application does not describe a clear STEM vision, but the school seems interested in providing STEM learning to students.	The application shows the school is interested in shifting to STEM, but it is unclear how this project advances the school's STEM mission.	The application describes a clear STEM vision, and how the project advances the school toward the vision.	
	1-3pts	4-7pts	8-10pts	
Project Support: PD, Planning Time, Coaching, Thoughtful Roll Out	The application does not describe support systems to ensure teacher success with project implementation, or support systems are inadequate.	The application mentions adequate support systems to ensure teacher success with project implementation, but it is unclear how those systems will be utilized.	The application describes strong support systems to ensure teacher success with project implementation, and provides specific details about how the applicant will leverage those systems.	
	0-4pts	5-7pts	8-10pts	
Impact	The project impacts <40% of the student population.	The project impacts 40-80% of the student population.	The project impacts >80% of the student population.	
	1pt	2-3pts	4-5pts	
Sustainability	The project is a one-time project.	The school intends to continue the project, but the application does not clearly describe a long-range plan.	The application describes a long-range plan for rolling out and expanding the project.	
	1pt	2pts	3pts	
Return on Investment Cost/Student	Low ROI	Moderate ROI	High ROI	
	0pts	1pt	2pts	
		Application Score:		
		Total Points Available: 30		