



STEM Innovation Grants: Early STE(A)M

Background

The purpose of the STEM Innovation Grant Program is to award grants that expand the implementation of effective programs related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, that: (1) propose innovative approaches to STEM-based education; or (2) provide professional development relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics ([OAR 581-017-0321](#)). STEM Innovation Grants are also specifically established to help close the achievement gap for students who are historically underserved and/or underrepresented in STEM ([OAR 581-017-0327](#)). STEM Innovation Grants are awarded to the [13 Regional STEM Hubs](#) for programming efforts each biennium. For the 23-25 Biennium, projects were submitted via a request for application and all proposed activities aligned to the required grant criteria. This Biennium, STEM Hubs collaborated together to develop their proposed budget allocations and activities and identified four collective areas of alignment across projects, including: Core STEM, Pathways to STEM, Early STEAM, and Community STEM. In addition, STEM Hub Directors and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) worked together as a network to finalize shared outcome measures for each project.

Early STE(A)M

Purpose: To provide early educators and childcare providers with tools, resources and strategies to ensure our littlest learners have equitable access to quality STEM learning experiences. The project leverages partnerships with early learning providers, school districts, and community organizations with a shared vision of ensuring young learners are prepared for future learning.



SOME OF OREGON'S YOUNGEST LEARNERS EXPERIENCE WATER QUALITY TESTING

Alignment with the [2021-25 STEM Education Plan Goals](#)

The Early Learning project is aligned with the three of four goals of the 2021-2025 STEM Education Plan which include: Goals:

- Goal 1: Inspire and empower our students to develop the knowledge, skills, and mindsets necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing, technologically rich, global society.
- Goal 2: Ensure equitable opportunities and access for every student to become a part of an inclusive innovation economy.

- Goals 3: Continuously improve the effectiveness, support, and number of formal and informal P-20 STEM educators.
- Goals 4: Develop a sustainable funding and policy environment for STEM and CTE that provides reliable, seamless, and sufficient support across biennia.

These goals emphasize:

- Promotion of culturally and linguistically responsive teaching strategies
- Reformation of curricula
- High-quality Professional Development

Early STE(A)M Activities

Strategies employed across the state to strengthen the work in Early STEAM include:

- Professional Development designed for early educators and childcare providers
- Intentional partnerships
- PreK-5 STEM program delivery
- Resource development and dissemination to support existing Early STEAM efforts



PRE-KINDERGARDEN LEARN COMPUTER CODING VIA BEE BOTS