

Identifying Grant Opportunities for Your School or District

Facing a budget crunch? Can't purchase the curriculum materials you need? Consider approaching a funder outside of your school district to support your K-12 STEM education initiative. We've put together a concise list of resources to help you get a grant—and get the tools you need for great STEM education.

Getting Started: Learn about Grantseeking

Never applied for a grant before? These sites have resources to guide you through the process.

Grantspace, a service of the Foundation Center, offers a variety of free webinars that introduce you to proposal writing.

Dreambox offers a comprehensive, downloadable guide to STEM funding that also includes handy proposal-writing tips.

STEMfinity offers free grant-writing assistance to schools and programs.

Find STEM Grant Opportunities

A number of websites aggregate STEM-focused grant opportunities. Here are some of the most useful ones. Note that some require you to register for a free account.

Edutopia is an online community with loads of resources for teachers, including a "Big List of Educational Grants" that's constantly updated.

Grants for Teachers, a free resource for K-12 teachers, has a special section on STEM grants.

GetEdFunding is another grants database where you can search for STEM grants.

Houghton Mifflin offers educators a searchable grants database listing education-focused foundations and corporations.

Explore Different Types of Funders:

Many different types of organizations and agencies offer funding to implement innovative STEM programs. In the sections that follow, we'll explore

- National foundation grants
- Community foundation grants
- State grants
- Federal grants
- Support from local businesses

Need a modest amount of funding, fast?

Donorschoose is a nonprofit that makes it easy for teachers to crowdsource classroom materials and projects. The organization says 75% of teachers reach their funding goal.

Adopt-a-Classroom is similar to Donorschoose and features a STEM fund.

National Foundations

Review foundation guidelines carefully before asking for support, and note that a foundation's priorities may change from year to year. Though many foundations support education initiatives, not all of them specifically fund STEM initiatives. Here are some of the most promising prospects:

AMD Foundation supports programs that are teaching students how to create digital games, with a focus on learning critical STEM skills and life skills. Supports projects in Austin, Texas; Boston, Massachusetts; Ft. Collins, Colorado; Sunnyvale (Silicon Valley), California; Orlando, Florida; and Bellevue, Washington.

American Honda Foundation supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM subjects.

Bayer Foundations provides funding for teachers in cities and towns close to Bayer sites with the goal of making science classes more interesting via innovative projects.

S.D. Bechtel Foundation advances STEM education in school districts by supporting transitions to the new standards in math and science and advancing learning opportunities in both indoor and outdoor settings.

Braitmayer Foundation supports innovative practices in K-12 education—in particular, curricular initiatives and professional development for teachers.

Gannett Foundation offers Community Action grants—small awards that fund special initiatives or programs not provided by regular school budgets.

Halliburton Foundation makes direct donations to U.S.-based elementary and secondary schools in areas where Halliburton has a presence.

Inasmuch Foundation funds innovative projects that produce transformational change in PreK-12 public education.

Lockheed Martin Philanthropic Giving funds STEM education outreach activities for students from elementary school through college.

Motorola Solutions Foundation supports programs that encourage STEM education, "preparing our next generation of innovators."

NEA Foundation supports new ideas and practices to strengthen teaching and learning. You must be an NEA member to apply.

RGK Foundation supports afterschool programs that supplement formal education and increase chances for successful outcomes in school and life.

Toshiba America Foundation funds the projects, ideas, and materials teachers need to innovate in their math and science classrooms, with a focus on project-based learning.

Community Foundations

A community foundations can be an ideal match for your curriculum initiatives. These foundations engage in charitable giving at the local level, they often make education a priority, and their funds come from members of the local community.

The Community Foundation Locator, maintained by the Council on Foundations, can help you identify the community foundations that serve your area.

The Foundation Center also allows you to **search for community foundations** in your area.

STEMfinity also lists grant opportunities from local foundations state-by-state.

State Grants

At the state level, grant opportunities vary widely. Check your State Department of Education website to see if support is available for curriculum implementation.

Federal Grants

Applying for federal grants can seem a little bit complicated; check the **Grants Learning Center** for tips on navigating the process!

The website **Grants.gov** allows you to electronically find (and apply for) competitive grant opportunities from federal agencies. The site encompasses over 1,000 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.

The U.S. Department of Education's STEM team coordinates **STEM programs** throughout the Department and across other federal agencies. They issued this **letter** in spring 2016 listing all the ways you can use federal funds to support STEM education.

Support from Local Businesses

Scholastic has put together a list of national corporations that support education initiatives at the community level. See if any corporations on this list have a presence in your town.

Afterschool Alliance is the nation's leading voice for afterschool programs. The organization offers a great collection of tools for finding funding, including a database to help you find local funders.

Other Opportunities

The **Association of American Educators** awards small grants (up to \$500) for professional development and classroom materials.