Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Computing (STEM+C)

Competition Team Grant Initiative

A State-funded Initiative for PK-12 Schools

2024 General Requirements of

Qualifying for the STEM+C Competition Grant

Virginia Department of Education

Office of STEM

Application due on or before 4 p.m. on

September 13, 2024

Email signed application to vdoe.stem@doe.virginia.gov

<div align="center">**OVERVIEW**</div>

<u>GOALS</u>

- Increase awareness of careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computing, including computer science, computational thinking, and computer coding (STEM+C) among teachers and students.
- Engage students in extracurricular, STEM+C-related team-building activities through problem-based, project-based team competitions.
- Foster STEM+C competition team development and growth throughout Virginia.
- Focus on STEM+C literacy skills through hands-on experiences. These experiences will include problem-driven integrated STEM+C activities that use collaboration, communication, creativity, critical thinking, and ethics to explore the challenges and opportunities of the STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative.

<u>ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS</u>

- Public PK-12 schools that have demonstrated an interest in establishing new STEM+C competition teams and will serve as model schools for the STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative.
- A school division may apply for grant funding to establish and then support STEM+C competition teams for one or more qualifying schools (an application for grant funding is to be submitted for **each** proposed STEM+C competition team school program in the division).
- Grants to qualifying schools are not to exceed $5,000 per school per year. Total STEM+C competition team grant awards to a division are not to exceed $10,000 per year.
- Schools applying for first-year grants can use the funds for planning purposes and will be eligible to receive a second year of funding (initiative expansion) grant in the subsequent year, pending the availability of funding.
- Schools seeking second-year grants and meeting all eligibility requirements will be given priority over other grant applicants.
- Grant applications shall be evaluated in the order that each completed eligible application is received. In the event that the amount of eligible grants requested in a fiscal year exceeds the funds available, such grant applications shall be rolled over to the next fiscal year.
- The completed application consisting of contact information; a proposed budget; a statement of assurance; and an abstract not to exceed a total of one page that briefly outlines the plan to carry out the initiative requirements, criteria for selection of students to participate, and summary of the overall evaluation process.
- The STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative application is due to the Virginia Department of Education, Office of STEM on or before 4 p.m. on September 13, 2024. Email the signed application to vdoe.stem@doe.virginia.gov.

PROGRAM SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Must be located on a public school campus.
- Must provide appropriate insurance coverage.
- Must meet requirements to support all eligible activities that may include guest speakers, field trips, problem-driven projects, and a culmination/recognition program.
- Must provide required equipment and classroom/lab environment conducive to teamwork.
- Must provide applicable instructional resources and materials.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- Students who have expressed an interest in STEM+C related disciplines are eligible to participate in the initiative.
- Students who have expressed an interest in STEM+C related courses, careers, and/or who have started a program of study related to the STEM sector are eligible to participate in the initiative.
- Each student participant and parent or guardian shall sign an assurance that the student agrees to follow the school's Code of Conduct during the initiative and all related initiative activities.

STAFFING

- One or more teachers/school administrators who have appropriate knowledge to support a student team for the applicable STEM+C competition.
- Other team members involved in the planning phase may include representatives from business and industry, postsecondary education, parent associations, student leadership organizations, local advisory committees, and community economics/workforce leaders.

ROLE OF CORE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The core implementation team shall be responsible for identifying an applicable STEM+C competition; preparing the school site; communicating with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) staff; preparing communication materials for parents; recruiting students, business and industry partners, and postsecondary education partners; obtaining insurance coverage; arranging any student transportation and meals; implementing and evaluating the entire STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative experience; and completing all required evaluation and financial reports to the VDOE.

EVALUATION AND NEXT STEPS

An evaluation must be submitted by the core implementation team that will include activities and outcomes; and outline next steps for continued instruction, promotion, and recruitment to increase the number of students that participate in a STEM+C related program.

TIMELINE

September 15, 2024	STEM+C Competition Team Grant Application Due to VDOE
September 30, 2024	Send Grant Award Notifications to School Divisions
October 1, 2024-June 30, 2025	Prepare/Implement STEM+C Competition Team Initiative
October 30, 2024	Distribute Awarded Grant Funds to School Divisions
July 18, 2025	Final Closeout - Report on use of funding and evaluation report due to VDOE.

BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND REIMBURSEMENTS INFORMATION

Upon submission and approval of the division's eligible school STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative application packet, the school division will receive funds up to $5,000 for each school based on the submitted application. The school division's state-funded allocation of up to $10,000 will be received by October 30, 2024, based on confirmation of the resources needed for planning and implementation of the STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative and revised budget (if applicable).

Allowable uses of the state-funded allocation include, but are not limited to:

- Instructional resources and materials (instructional software programs, DVDs, textbooks, workbooks, reference materials, program materials and supplies, etc.)
- Bus transportation (transportation costs for students to and from school site to STEM+C competition site)
- Meals (meal and snack costs for staff and students not to exceed state rates for breakfast, lunch, and two nutritional snacks)
- STEM equipment (equipment that is unique and required for the STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative) Note: Computers and 3D printers **cannot** be purchased with STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative state funds except where a specialized device is required.
- Staff salaries/wages/stipends not to exceed **10 percent** of the grant award amount.

All STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative funds must be expended by June 30, 2025.

The STEM+C Competition Team Grant Initiative financial expenditure report and documentation must be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education, Office of STEM no later than Friday, July 18, 2025. Directions and forms will be provided with the grant award notification letter. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of STEM and Innovation by email at vdoe.stem@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 418-4739.