

Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

2024-2025 STEM Integration Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This document answers frequently asked questions about the 2024-2025 STEM Integration Grant. This document does not represent all requirements; please refer to the <u>2024-2025 STEM Integration Grant</u> <u>Guidance</u> for full application process and requirements.

Number	Question	Answer
1	Can the grant funds be used to purchase AI powered platforms?	The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) recognizes that Artificial Intelligence (AI) literacy is becoming an integral part of personalized learning across all content areas. According to <u>this guidance</u> , AI literacy is the intersection of how to use AI and how AI works. IDOE's Office of Digital Learning provides grant opportunities to support the adoption and use of AI platforms to assist students and educators in learning how to use AI tools. The STEM Integration Grant supports opportunities for educators to receive professional development to teach students the computer science behind how AI works. Therefore, funds from this grant opportunity may not be used to purchase AI powered platforms or tools.
2	What can be purchased with the grant funds?	 Grant funds will be used only for the following: Professional development Teacher stipends (may not include teacher benefits) Curriculum/materials; Software/technology; Travel; Virtual programming; Contracted services; and/or Other expenses approved by IDOE that promote research-based, best practices in integrated STEM education.
3	To which strands must the grant activities align?	 Grant applicants must align use of grant funds to support one of four strands 1. STEM-S involves professional learning and planning activities for implementation of phenomenon-based, three-dimensional instruction that integrates science and engineering practices, technology, and mathematics in the science classroom.



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		 STEM-C involves professional learning and planning activities for integrating computer science in STEM by cultivating the connection between science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science. STEM-M involves professional learning and planning activities for integrating STEM pedagogy within the instruction of mathematics by cultivating connections between science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEM-H involves professional learning and planning activities for integrating STEM pedagogy within and mathematics. STEM-H involves professional learning and planning activities for integrating STEM pedagogy within and across the STEM disciplines and the humanities (non-STEM disciplines).
4	Is there a specific window during which reimbursements will be made?	Reimbursement requests for approved expenditures incurred between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, may be submitted once the grantee receives notice of a fully executed grant agreement. The deadline for final submission of reimbursements for expenses incurred within the grant cycle is August 30, 2025.
5	When will applicants be notified of grant awards?	Notifications will be sent to grant applicants late June through early July, 2024.
6	Who can apply for this grant?	 This competitive grant opportunity is open to school corporations, charter schools, and other entities that meet the following criteria: 1. Agree to the <u>grant assurances</u>; and 2. Create a sustainability plan to continue implementation after grant funds have been exhausted.
7	Can grant funds be used to purchase technology like laptops or tablets?	No. Application Section 2.2 asks grant applicants to provide evidence that required technology necessary to implement proposed grant activities are in place prior to implementation.
8	What data collection is required?	Eligible entities receiving a grant award are required to participate in data collection throughout the grant cycle. In addition to check-ins on general grant implementation, at the beginning and end of the 2024-2025 academic year, awardees will administer a survey provided by IDOE to educators



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		participating in the proposed grant activities. The survey is brief and requires educators to rate student engagement with problem-solving and critical thinking.
9	What may not be purchased with grant funds?	 Grant funds may not be used for the following unallowable expenses: Non-academic entertainment Preparation of the initial grant application prior to Monday, July 1, 2024 Pre-award costs incurred prior to Monday, July 1, 2024 Decorative items Purchase of facilities or vehicles Land acquisition Capital improvements Permanent renovations Food Indirect costs (costs that cannot be easily parsed to a particular funding line, such as the cost of preparing payroll or paying utilities) AI powered platforms or tools Purchasing or replacing 1:1 devices
10	Should the Budget Narrative match the Budget Template?	The Budget Narrative should provide explicit details for each budget category to justify costs. Totals listed for each category in the Budget Narrative must match the totals listed for each category on the Budget Template.

Please contact the Indiana Department of Education's (IDOE's) <u>Office of Teaching and Learning</u> with any additional questions.