

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

Mission Statement

Providing coordination for statewide STEM education and activities to enhance opportunities for educators, students, communities, and employers in their work to build a competitive Idaho workforce and economy through STEM and computer science education.

Vision Statement

A diverse STEM-literate Idaho workforce that meets the changing needs of Idaho employers and supports the long-term economic prosperity of Idaho.

During the 2015 Idaho legislative session, a group of legislators, education leaders, and industry leaders began a STEM Caucus that led to legislation creating the Idaho STEM Action Center (STEM AC) ([Idaho Code §67-823](#)). House Bill 302 became law on July 1, 2015. Guided by this legislation STEM AC coordinates science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education opportunities aligned to Idaho's workforce needs from PreK to career.

The scope and benefits of STEM education are well framed in guidance from the national STEM strategic plan, which indicates “the best STEM education provides an interdisciplinary approach to learning, where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world applications and students use STEM in contexts that make connections between school, community, work, and the wider world. Modern STEM education imparts not only skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, higher order thinking, design, and inference, but also behavioral competencies such as perseverance, adaptability, cooperation, organization, and responsibility.” Several agencies such as State Department of Education, State Board of Education, the Division of Career and Technical Education, Idaho Department of Labor, and Idaho Workforce Development Council as well as local school districts, community partners, and employers contribute to Idaho's STEM activity and education efforts. STEM AC provides coordination efforts to ensure efficiency, eliminate duplication, and promote best practices within this complex system. This work is implemented by STEM AC's Executive Director and seven professional staff. STEM AC's decisions are also guided by a nine (9) member Advisory Board appointed by the Governor.

Core Functions and Idaho Code

STEM AC's overarching goal is to support Idaho's efforts to produce a STEM-competitive workforce. Many of Idaho's employers struggle with finding the skilled workforce they need to succeed. This need will only be compounded by future innovations and advancements in technology. Many educators also lack the experiences and connections outside the classroom which effectively align classroom instruction with present and future employer needs. STEM AC aims to bridge this divide through effective coordination of all relevant parties, fostering environments that make these connections intuitive, effective, and rewarding. With effective support in place, educators across the state can give their students the skills, competencies, and tools to prepare for the fastest-growing, highest-need, and most fulfilling careers in Idaho.

A key component of coordination is gaining a clear picture of the current and future obstacles and opportunities related to STEM education in Idaho. STEM AC uses real-time data gathered through industry process foci, conversations, surveys, programming, and other collaborative means to bolster educator professional development, and to support the acquisition of STEM learning resources for Idaho's classrooms. Another product of this work is a shared understanding of STEM education needs within Idaho's communities built alongside the people who live and work there. This information is shared widely for the benefit of all- identifying symbiotic connections, eliminating waste of time, energy, and money, and making recommendations for programming, investments, and partnerships best aligned to the unique features of local communities.

Opportunities identified for programmatic intervention receive support from STEM AC in one of several ways. STEM AC coordinates and provides high-quality STEM professional development for educators and work-based learning opportunities that benefit Idahoans no matter what stage of life they are in. To maximize the inertia developed through direct-service programming, STEM AC also supports the third-party organizations best equipped to provide these programs.

STEM Action Center collaborates with other state agencies and employers to fulfill the following STEM legislation:

- **Computer Science Initiative** ([Idaho Code 33-1633](#), passed 2016). This legislation directs STEM Action Center to focus on critical training and educational needs to help populate Idaho’s growing need for a tech-savvy workforce.
- **STEM School Designation** ([Idaho Code 33-4701](#), passed 2017). In collaboration with the Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE), this designation is formally recognized by OSBE and the Governor’s Office.
- **Computer Science for All** ([Idaho Code 33-1634](#), passed 2018). This legislation requires all Idaho high schools to offer at least one computer science course by 2020.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Fund	3,047,100	3,056,100	3,110,069	2,345,300
Dedicated	2,346,094	1,833,302	1,728,475	2,929,900
Total	5,393,194	4,889,402	4,838,544	5,275,200
Expenditure	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personnel Costs	576,211	572,594	589,367	846,300
Operating Expenditures	4,597,398	4,480,130	4,122,354	2,345,300
Capital Outlay	550	670	78,277	101,300
Trustee and Benefit Payments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	5,174,159	5,053,394	4,789,998	3,292,900

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

STEM Action Center serves as a coordinator for STEM education and workforce development and to align STEM education with workforce needs. As such, our primary customers are organizations and educators that provide STEM learning opportunities, and industry partners who need a STEM-educated talent pool and believe in long-term workforce development. We meet associated needs for the state’s STEM workforce through statewide STEM education strategic planning, high-quality educator professional development, work-based learning opportunities for educators, fostering strategic partnerships and collaboration efforts, competitive funding opportunities, among other methods.

This past year, STEM Action Center continued to improve our work, hosting 35 high-quality, peer-to-peer STEM learning workshops across the state through our i-STEM Summer Institutes. We also supported 105 before and after school and summer programs through the ESSER Out of School Programming Grant we received in FY23 and FY24 through the State Board of Education. Looking forward, STEM Action Center is improving our capacity to coordinate statewide strategy by equipping other organizations to generate local investment and connections through competitive opportunities and student programming. As a result of these improvements, future collaborations may be measured and reported through other means.

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Number of Professional Development workshops offered at i-STEM Institutes*	29	23	40	35
Number of ESSER Out of School Program funding opportunities***	N/A	N/A	29	76

* Workshops were cancelled in FY 2021 due to COVID-19, held virtually in FY 2022, and in person in FY 2023.

** Tracking started in FY 2022.

*** P3 grant program was not offered in FY24 due to programmatic changes within the agency

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measures		FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Goal 1: Increase awareness of the importance of STEM+CS education and employment pathways						
1. Value of earned media for STEM-related efforts in Idaho.	actual	\$742,005	\$2,080,064.55	\$2,181,120	432,382.31	
	target	-----	\$800,000.00	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	400,000
2. Reach of earned media for STEM-related efforts in Idaho (consumer impressions).	actual	2,537,523	3,927,379	4,587,377	2,157,468	
	target	-----	3,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	2,000,000
Goal 2: Increase pursuit of STEM pathways across Idaho						
3. Access instances for STEM career-connected learning platforms & resources.	actual	-----	-----	10,300	11,500	
	target	-----	-----	-----	11,000	12,000
4. Number of STEM designated schools	actual	6	7	11	11	
	target	-----	9	11	13	12
Goal 3: Align STEM+CS education with workforce needs						
5. Number of externships run to connect educators and college and career counselors with employers.	actual	26	27	88	97	
	target	-----	30	30	85	40

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

Goal 1 media metric targets for FY25 are held at 2024 target levels to adjust for changes in some agency functions. Media includes traditional (print, radio, broadcast television, email, newsletters) and digital (online advertising, social media, video streaming services, websites) media, and is measured using the number of consumer impressions and the advertising value equivalence.

Goal 2 reflects access from Idaho’s statewide contract for the Learning Blade platform. 11,500+ Idaho students have now completed an impressive 300,000+ online STEM/CS/CTE lessons, representing an incredible 39,000+ hours spent engaging with career awareness activities online.

Funding support from the Idaho Workforce Development Council and Micron Technology supported a large increase in the number of externships in FY23 and FY24. While this funding continued in FY24, we expect the program numbers to normalize around 40 educator externs per year.

For More Information, Contact:

Contact Name: Matthew Reiber
Title/Position: Interim Executive Director
State Agency: Idaho STEM Action Center
Address: 802 W. Bannock St., Suite 900
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: (208) 854-3033
E-mail: Matthew.Reiber@gov.idaho.gov

Director Attestation for Performance Report

In accordance with *Idaho Code* 67-1904, I certify the data provided in the Performance Report has been internally assessed for accuracy, and, to the best of my knowledge, is deemed to be accurate.

Department: Idaho STEM Action Center


Director's Signature

7/29/2024
Date

Please return to:

Division of Financial Management
304 N. 8th Street, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho 83720-0032

FAX: 334-2438
E-mail: info@dfm.idaho.gov