



South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics & Science

With support from S²TEM Centers SC

Present a Grant Opportunity for South Carolina Educators

Growing in STEM Grant Packet

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2025.

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Growing in STEM Grant General Information

All applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2025.

Purpose

Have you been searching for a way to bring an idea to life that fosters a life-long love of STEAM? Apply for the “Growing in STEM” grant now!

Eligibility

PreK-12 public and private educators, involved with in and out of school learning, with a great idea for a new and innovative curriculum-based project that can be completed by May 1, 2026. The project/unit should incorporate multiple aspects of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Humanities, and Math) along with supporting key Life and Career Characteristics and World Class Skills from [the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate](#).

Restrictions

Grant funds may not be used for expansion and/or maintenance of existing programs or as a personal honorarium for the applicant. Grant funds should not address needs for which funding is currently available through district, state, or federal budgets. Grant funds may only be used for the project that is described in the application; any changes to the project must be immediately communicated to the Grant Committee for approval. Funds may not be used for any personal expenses not related to the corresponding project. If you have specific questions about a project’s technical eligibility, please contact us: grants@sccoalition.org.

Financial Guidelines

Grantees will receive up to \$2,500 and 1 day of REQUESTED, onsite STEAM focused professional development from S²TEM Centers SC Education Specialists (valued at \$1,375) that will directly relate to the funded project. Collaborative projects involving groups of educators may be considered, but such groups should submit ONLY one proposal for the project. Both grant funds and THE REQUESTED day of onsite training must be used by May 1, 2026.

Review of Proposals

A committee comprised of business and community leaders and educators will fund requests on a competitive basis. Funding decisions will be announced by February 14, 2025.

NOTE: South Carolina’s Coalition for Mathematics & Science (SCCMS) and S²TEM Center SC staff will not provide guidance or comment on a project’s likelihood of receiving funding or feedback on submissions.

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General Guidelines and Information

- Completed applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on January 31, 2025.
- Applications **MUST** be submitted online.
- Grant application **MUST** be pre-approved by Principal or organizational site leader.
- Checks will be written to the school or organization for distribution.
- Project funds must be utilized by **May 1, 2026**.
- Expense reports (including receipts) will be required.
- Proposals including substitute teacher costs, outside consultants, and/or field trips will only be considered if the item is an integral, vital component of a larger strategy.
- Any non-consumable items become the property of the district or organization. If the grant awardee transfers or leaves the school/organization, purchased items **must** remain at the awarded site.

Grant Presentation Tips

- Do not type your name or your organization's name in the body of the application narrative.
- Describe/define any specific educational terminology you will be using if it clarifies the purpose or scope of the project.



Scoring Rubric

Applications will be scored by multiple judges based on the following rubric.

New in 2025: The Growing in STEM Grants are “Math Forward”! We have modified the scoring rubric to favor projects that make a connection to mathematics teaching and learning. Identify standards and consider how math concepts can be applied to a cross-disciplinary project.

Category	Exemplary (3 pts)	Adequate (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (1 pt)	Missing (0 pts)
Mathematics Connection	The project includes a math connection and identifies the specific math standards which it will address.	The project includes a math connection but does not identify specific math standards.	The project makes an attempt at a mathematics connection.	The project makes no attempt at a mathematics connection.
Inspiring Innovation	The project is based on an innovative, out-of-the-box idea.	The project is based on a somewhat innovative, out-of-the-box idea.	The project lacks an innovative, out-of-the-box idea.	The project is not innovative or based on an out-of-the-box idea.
Real-World Application	The real-world connection is clearly defined with strong real-world applications.	The real-world connection is clearly defined, but the real-world application is vague or unclear.	The real-world connection and application are both unclear and not well defined.	The project description lacks an explanation of both the real-world connection and application.
Connections to STEAM Curriculum	The project engages students in learning and applying curriculum concepts across 4 or more STEAM-related fields. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Humanities, and Math)	The project engages students in learning and applying curriculum concepts across 3 or more STEAM-related fields. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Humanities, and Math)	The project engages students in learning and applying curriculum concepts across a couple STEAM-related fields. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Humanities, and Math)	The project description lacks explanation of engagement in STEAM across curriculum subjects. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Humanities, and Math)



Category	Exemplary (3 pts)	Adequate (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (1 pt)	Missing (0 pts)
Connections to Profile of SC Graduate Reference: http://sccompets.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate.pdf	The proposal describes how all 3 components of the Profile are supported. (World Class Knowledge, Skills and Life and Career Characteristics)	The proposal describes how 2 of the 3 components of the Profile are supported. (World Class Knowledge, Skills and Life and Career Characteristics)	The proposal describes how 1 of the 3 components of the Profile are supported. (World Class Knowledge, Skills and Life and Career Characteristics)	The proposal lacks any description of how the Profile is supported.
Purpose and Goals	The project's purpose and goals are clearly stated and identify the specific deliverables students will be asked to produce.	The project's purpose, goals and student deliverables are identified but lack some details.	The explanation of the project's purpose, goals and student deliverables is unclear.	The project's purpose, goals and student deliverables are not identified.
Evaluation	Student outcomes are clearly defined, quantifiable indicators are listed, and methods for determining success are indicated.	Student outcomes are identified, but the explanation lacks either quantifiable indicators or methods for determining success.	Student outcomes are identified, but no quantifiable indicators or methods for determining success are identified.	No student outcomes, quantifiable indicators, or methods for determining success are identified.
Plans for Sharing	A clear, detailed plan is provided for how lessons learned will be shared.	A plan is provided for how lessons learned will be shared, but lacks details.	An explanation is provided for how lessons learned will be shared, but not a plan.	No plan or explanation of how lessons learned will be shared is provided.



If funded, you will be asked to submit a final report upon completion of the project. The final report must be submitted online by 5:00 pm on May 29, 2026. The link for the form will be sent via email prior to May 29, 2026.

Final Report

Name: _____

School/Organization: _____

Grant Title: _____

Please answer each question below in 3 pages or less (not including photos) and submit the report online prior to May 29, 2026.

1. In what ways did focusing on learner collaboration through a project/unit with a practical, real-world application to STEAM influence your practice as an educator?
2. What were the specific deliverables your learners produced? How were your learners able to achieve those deliverables by collaborating with peers?
3. What were your successes and challenges as you and your learners completed the project/unit? What data supports learner outcomes that were met? What might you do again? What might you change for next time?
4. How were your “lessons learned” shared with colleagues? What feedback did you receive from your colleagues based on your lessons learned from the project/unit?
5. What would some of your learners say about how collaborating with peers on a real-life project/unit impacted their learning? (Include specific quotes written or told by learners.)
6. Attach photos and/or videos from your project/unit (from beginning to end) that we may use for the final report, as well as share with others. Include a description of each photo/video. (You may include a video link for YouTube if necessary.)
7. Provide a detailed expense report including receipts for all funds spent. Any unused funds must be returned to SCCMS.

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Grant Calendar

This is provided as a guide to outline the timeline associated with your grant should it be funded.

June 3, 2024	Grant application opens
Jan. 31, 2025	Grant application due by 5:00 pm
Feb. 14, 2025	Funding decisions announced
April 2, 2025	Grant awardees recognized at STEM Education Day at the State Capitol
May 1, 2026	Project completed and project funds utilized.
May 29, 2026	Final report submitted via email by 5:00 pm



Checklist & Worksheets

Use the following checklist to prepare for the Growing in STEM Grant Online Application. All applications MUST be submitted via the online application.

✓	Step 1: Read overview and eligibility on website.
✓	Step 2: Decide on a project.
✓	Step 3: Download and review the Grant Information Packet .
	Step 4: Prepare to submit your application by completing the Planning Worksheet and the Budget Worksheet
	Step 5: Once you have finished filling out your Planning Worksheet, go to the Growing in STEM Grants Online Application to enter your information into the online application.