

STEM NETWORK SCHOOLS

Schools Responsibilities

STEM Network Schools, a program of The Education Alliance, will have a focus in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). STEM Network Schools will receive resources, including a \$30,000 grant over three years, to become demonstration sites for innovative STEM practices that boost student achievement. The Network consists of six (6) secondary schools (middle and/or high schools) that develop and implement a school-based STEM Plan. The plans enhance the schools' current STEM efforts by enriching STEM curriculum and instruction, strengthening STEM business partnerships and identifying resources to build capacity over the course of the three year project. The scope of work for each school will be developed according to the following timeline:

Year 1: Each school will identify a leadership team and STEM Coordinator VISTA(s) to participate in training and a site visit of a neighboring state's successful STEM School in Fall 2015. School teams will develop a STEM School Plan that outlines actions required for planning (2015-2016) and activities for two years of implementation with Network resources (2016-2017 and 2017-2018), and at least one year of sustainability (2018-2019).

Years 2-3: Network schools will work collaboratively with school and county leadership to implement their STEM Network Plan, develop STEM-based resources and create community awareness about the program. These long term changes include: revisions to the school curriculum and instruction that enhance STEM learning opportunities; project-based learning plans for students that integrate STEM-based technology; and the development and enhancement of STEM-related business partnerships.

STEM Network Schools will:

Develop a comprehensive **STEM Plan** that outlines how the school will enhance their current STEM initiatives and implement new best practices over a 3 year period. The STEM Plan will include, but will not be limited to:

1. Methods of engaging students in STEM learning opportunities.
2. Extensive professional development in STEM curriculum develop and instruction for teachers.
3. Collaboration with local business and community partners to enhance real world STEM learning.
4. Collaboration with county leaders to build the capacity of the school to implement the plan.

Host one to two (1-2) **STEM School Coordinators** who are AmeriCorps Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) members for a three year period. VISTA members:

1. Are chosen by the STEM Network School and should have related work experience or an interest in education and/or science, technology, engineering and mathematics along with the ability to plan and execute program development.
2. Make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve at a local STEM Network School. Each individual VISTA serves a one-year term which may be extended. Schools may recruit a new VISTA each year or may renew the VISTA's term for another year.
3. Receive a living allowance, limited health benefits, child care reimbursement, relocation assistance, and an education award or post-service stipend, which are provided at no cost to the school. In order to recruit high quality STEM School Coordinators, schools must provide additional incentives for their VISTAs such as housing assistance, meal and/or transportation assistance.
4. Serve under the guidance of their school supervisor and focus their efforts on building the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of the Network Schools to enhance student STEM education opportunities.

Become a **STEM model school** that exemplifies how STEM learning is collaborative, project-based, focused on solving real-world problems. STEM schools encourage students to be creative, critical thinkers and prepared for high-demand jobs of the future. A "network" approach provides each school with the opportunity to:

1. Experience a STEM model school first hand through a site visit to an existing out of state exemplar.
2. Receive professional development and technical assistance on STEM-related best practices from a variety of providers including higher education, national centers, and other STEM experts.
3. Collaborate with other STEM Network Schools to identify and share successful strategies and strengthen the individual/collective school's ability to affect change.
4. Host site-visits and provide training for other schools interested in STEM education that shares lessons-learned and showcases successes.
5. Participate in a third-party evaluation that analyzes the positive outcomes of program participation.