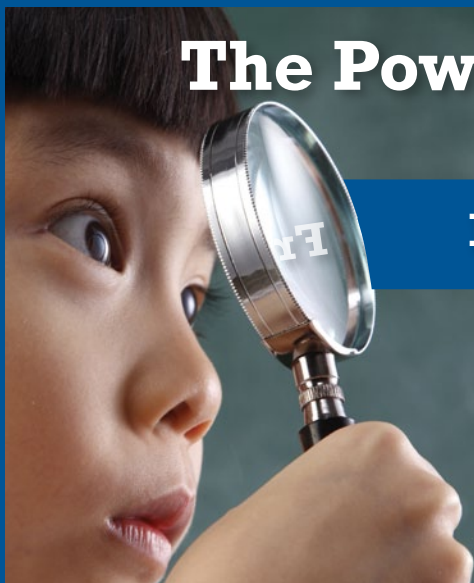


The Power of Discovery: STEM²

Frequently Asked Questions



Who are Out-of-School Time (OST) Providers?

OST providers are agencies working at the point of service to provide after school programs. The primary goal of the STEM² strategic plan for the first two years is to leverage California's over 4,000 publicly funded after school (ASES and/or 21st Century Community Learning Centers) programs. Publicly funded after school and summer programs are established through grants to (LEAs) Local Education Agencies (i.e. School Districts or County Offices of Education) non-profit agencies, and community-based organizations (CBOs). Such programs collaborate and integrate with the regular school day program and other extended learning opportunities (EC 8483.3 [c][5]). Therefore, OST providers can represent many different types organizations such as: school districts, county offices of education, community-based organizations, non-profits, city programs, and parks and recreation divisions. Working effectively with OST Providers will often require the involvement of multiple stakeholders.

What is the Needs and Readiness Assessment?

The Needs and Readiness Assessment is a survey that will be disseminated to OST providers and their collaborative partners to collect data on the current assets and identify gaps.

What is a Memorandum of Understanding?

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is an agreement of commitment between the Regional Innovation Support Provider and the OST Provider representing the collaborative partners. It outlines the commitments of both parties and will be developed locally.

What is the STEM program plan?

The STEM program plan is a planning document that the OST provider and their collaborative partners will complete. Such a plan will contain the goals the program would like to accomplish throughout the year, as well as the resources, partnerships, and technical assistance necessary to successfully complete the plan. This will be outlined in a timeline that includes the resources and technical assistance that will be brokered, or provided by Regional Innovation Support Providers. The planning document is a resource to assist OST providers (in collaboration with Regional Innovation Support Providers) in the development of a plan intended to achieve desired program, staff, and student outcomes. These outcomes include increased frequency and quality of STEM learning opportunities offered in the program, increased staff confidence, competence, and motivation to provide such programming, with the goal of increasing student **engagement, interest, and knowledge** in STEM.



Who is required to complete a Work Plan?

If funded, Regional Innovation Providers will be required to complete a work plan and budget. There is a draft work plan template that provides an example of the work to be done and is bridged with the strategic plan for *The Power of Discovery: STEM²*.

Will there be an orientation and ongoing support for *The Power of Discovery: STEM²* awardees?

Yes, the orientation will focus on building the capacity of Regional Innovation Support Providers in technical assistance competencies (i.e. training, coaching, mentoring, and brokering resources) understanding the after school landscape, as well as quality STEM implementation. This orientation will allow Regional Innovation Support Providers to begin developing unique regional work plans in collaboration with one another.



Additionally, there will be two face-to-face meetings with statewide peers and virtual meetings every two months with statewide peers.

Please save the dates of the Regional Innovation Support Provider Orientation:

September 10–14, 2012

Ongoing Support and Partnerships for the Regional Innovation Support Providers

Regional Innovation Support Providers will have the benefit of participating in a community of practice. The community of practice is an ongoing opportunity for Regional Innovation Support providers to learn from experts in the fields of STEM learning and out-of-school time programming. Such partners include but are not limited to the Project for Education and After School Resilience (PEAR) at Harvard Medical School, After School Assistance Providers Connect (ASAPconnect) and the Partnership for Children and Youth. They will also work in partnership with the evaluation team at the University of California Irvine. Regional Innovation Support providers will also be able to seek broad information and guidance from the after school field through participation in the California Afterschool Network STEM Committee.



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