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## 2023-24 STEM Impact Grant Application Fact Sheet

STEM Partnership Impact Grants, funded by the Duke Energy Foundation, will be awarded to fund opportunities for students to learn the application of STEM concepts through problem-based learning activities conducted with business partners.

### Eligibility

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- Any traditional K-12 Orange County Public Schools science, technology, engineering, and/or math classroom teacher may apply. Resource teachers are not eligible.
- Teachers are eligible to apply for a Duke Energy STEM Partnership Application **OR** a Duke Energy Math-Science-Energy Education application. Please plan your grant request accordingly and apply for only one of these grants.

### Project Focus

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- All grant awards must be used for the purchase of project supplies, equipment, and/or software for program implementation.
- Project must take place between **October 10, 2023 and April 28, 2024** before, during, and/or after school.
- STEM Partnership Grants target projects that include partnerships with local businesses where students are solving a problem. Also eligible are robotic or other STEM clubs that happen before, after, or during school (business partner needed for clubs, too).
- Projects should include a real-world problem/challenge that mimics tasks/practices of STEM professionals, hands-on learning opportunities, and a scientific discovery process.
- Technology should be appropriately incorporated into the project and must be preapproved by ITS by submitting

**Bonus points** will be awarded to applicants who teach in schools serving student populations that are at least 60% minority (non-white), 60% Hispanic and/or 60% eligible for free/reduced-price meals. If schools meet all three criteria, they earn 15 bonus points (5 points each).

### Grant Amounts Available

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- K - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: up to \$5,000

### Grant Will NOT Cover

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- Honoraria, salaries, stipends, or substitute teachers
- Field trips or transportation
- Awards, incentives, t-shirts, food (unless part of an experiment)
- Programs that are state-mandated or existing programs funded by another organization
- Replication of a grant awarded in a prior academic year to the same grantee
- Maintenance of a grant awarded in a prior academic year to the same grantee

### Application Requirements

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- All applications must be submitted via the online grant portal.
- All applications must be approved by the principal.
- Project **MUST** be done in conjunction with a **business partner**.
  - An identified business partner must provide a minimum of **10 on-site contact hours** working with students and/or teachers.
  - This identified business partner must be listed in the application.

## Key Dates

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<b>Application Deadline:</b>	September 15, 2023
<b>Award Notification by:</b>	October 9, 2023
<b>Spend Funds Deadline:</b>	January 31, 2024
<b>Submit Expense Report:</b>	January 31, 2024
<b>Unspent Funds Returned:</b>	January 31, 2024
<b>Final Evaluation Due:</b>	April 28, 2024
<b>PowerPoint and/or Video Due:</b>	April 28, 2024

If you are unable to meet the key dates for spending and reporting, please do NOT apply. Unspent funds must be returned to the Foundation by January 31, 2024 so those funds can be redistributed.

## Evaluation Process

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Each application will be reviewed, evaluated and scored by a panel of three community volunteers. Most volunteers are not educators and will not be familiar with acronyms and/or curricular areas. It is in your best interest to minimize education jargon. Volunteers will evaluate according to the criteria listed in the rubric and answers provided by applicant(s).

## Funding Process

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Checks are payable to the grantee's school. Amount granted may be different from budget request.

## Other Pertinent Information

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- Computer/Device guidelines:
    - Need for device(s) **MUST** be established and qualified and approved from ITS.
    - Device(s) **MUST** be approved by your school's tech coordinator.
    - Management Directive B-14 procedures **MUST** be followed for any electrical or structural configurations. Approvals must be done prior to a grant submission; not after.
    - Device(s) **MUST** be quoted and purchased through iBuy. The technology must be integral to the proposed project. The grant will be approved before purchases can be made. All OCPS ordering procedures must be following in according to district policy.
  - Supplies, materials and equipment purchased with grant funds do not become the personal property of the grantee; however, supplies, materials and equipment can travel from school to school with the grantee. Upon resignation or retirement, the supplies, and/or materials become the property of the OCPS school where last held.

## Grantee Responsibility

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- Electronically sign the contract in your assigned Google Drive.
  - Expend grant funds no later than January 31, 2024.
  - Submit expense summary and copies of all receipts to your Google Drive. Unspent funds must be returned no later than January 31, 2024.
  - Submit a Final Evaluation Report (online) and PowerPoint presentation and/or video presentation by April 28, 2024. Be prepared to report on the number of participating students in each of the following categories: minority (non-white), Hispanic and female/male.