

Part I – Agency Profile

Agency Overview

Mission Statement

Advancing innovative opportunities for educators, students, communities, and industry to build a competitive Idaho workforce and economy through STEM and computer science education.

Vision Statement

A diverse STEM-literate Idaho workforce to support the long-term economic prosperity of Idaho.

During the 2015 Idaho legislative session, a group of legislators, education leaders, and industry stakeholders began a STEM Caucus that led to legislation creating the Idaho STEM Action Center ([Idaho Code §67-823](#)). House Bill 302 became law on July 1, 2015. Guided by this legislation the Center coordinates science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education opportunities aligned to Idaho's workforce needs from PreK to career. Decisions about the STEM Action Center are guided by a nine (9) member Advisory Board appointed by the Governor. The STEM Action Center is staffed by an Executive Director and five professional staff that support STEM and computer science (CS) programming, grants and contracts management, financial management, and data analytics.

STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that provides opportunities for students to build problem-solving tied to real-world applications through the integration of science, technology, engineering, and math. Coordinated statewide STEM-focused efforts support Idaho as an in-demand business destination and supports a workforce with the necessary STEM skills that employers are demanding. A highly skilled STEM workforce leads to increased investment and business opportunities throughout Idaho. Through STEM Action Center's work, educators have the necessary STEM skills and resources to engage students and students have access to STEM education. The hands-on, project-based approach of STEM education helps students develop durable skills (i.e., 21st century skills) such as creative thinking, innovation, communication, and collaboration. These are skills that all Idaho employers desire and skills that set students up for success for jobs in or out of STEM fields. The STEM Action Center's collaborative efforts can lead to an increase in the number of businesses throughout the state and an increased number of jobs available to Idahoans. In turn, these strategic partnerships bolster Idaho's economy and lead to long-term economic prosperity for the state and its citizens.

Core Functions and Idaho Code

STEM Action Center's enacting legislation ([Idaho Code 67-823](#)) focuses on five broad areas: 1) coordination of regional and state-level STEM-related activities; 2) promotion of STEM through best practices in education; 3) support of high-quality professional development and funding for educators; 4) support of STEM-related student programs such as competitions, fairs, and camps; and 5) engagement of private industry and non-profits in the development, implementation, and sustainability of STEM opportunities. Fulfilling legislative intent is accomplished through collaboration with partners to create alignment and efficiencies among stakeholders and coordinating opportunities for communities. In addition, legislative intent is accomplished by measuring outcomes from all projects, programs, and initiatives.

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.
- **STEM Diploma** ([Idaho Code 33-523](#), passed 2018). This legislation provides recognition for students who have taken STEM course work that is significantly more rigorous than state graduation requirements.

To meet the workforce needs in STEM, STEM Action Center has established three goals in line with a theory of change based on *awareness*, *access*, and *alignment*. The first step of engaging a student in STEM is increasing their *awareness* on the value of a STEM education and the job opportunities available to them. Second, STEM education opportunities must be available and *accessible* for students to develop their STEM and 21st century skills. Third, it is essential that STEM education pathways are *aligned* with workforce needs to ensure that STEM opportunities are supporting employers and Idaho's economy.

STEM Action Center's goals are accomplished through strategic partnerships that unite communities and ensure efficiencies while leveraging each other's resources. To accomplish this, STEM Action Center conducts regional outreach through the Idaho STEM Ecosystem, a network of STEM education partners from education, industry, and government. Three regional hubs serve educators and students across the state. Once fully developed, the Idaho STEM Ecosystem will serve all communities and enhance STEM engagement, thereby allowing Idahoans to leverage local resources in collaboration with statewide STEM stakeholders.

A key to STEM Action Center's success is significant employer engagement with programs, projects, and outreach efforts. Idaho businesses have shown they are committed to STEM Action Center and its goals by providing in-kind and cash support to STEM education and workforce development opportunities. This is accomplished through sponsorships of student competitions, integration of collaborative industry-educator projects funded via grants, professional development guided by employer input, STEM professionals serving as mentors on panels and as volunteers, and through various workforce development initiatives such as public-private partnerships. Additionally, STEM Action Center Foundation was created to engage more effectively with a broader network of businesses. The monetary and in-kind support from Idaho business partners and engagement in the Idaho STEM Ecosystem indicates STEM Action Center partners understand that students develop a STEM identity at an early age and require ongoing STEM experiences to foster interest and confidence, and to consider pursuing STEM at the post-secondary level and/or as a career.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
General Fund	2,575,900	2,536,700	3,047,100	3,056,100
Dedicated	3,340,500	2,796,112	2,346,094	1,833,302
Total	5,916,400	5,332,812	5,393,194	4,889,402
Expenditure	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Personnel Costs	482,169	569,802	576,211	572,594
Operating Expenditures	5,072,591	4,658,166	4,597,398	4,480,130
Capital Outlay	11,437	5,385	550	670
Trustee and Benefit Payments	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	5,566,197	5,233,354	5,174,159	5,053,394

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

The 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 want to help. We meet associated needs for the state’s STEM workforce through competitive funding opportunities, high-quality educator professional development, and opportunities for networking and collaboration, among other methods.

In FY 2022, the STEM Action Center continued to refocus its role as a coordinator of regional and statewide STEM education opportunities, rather than a program provider, to create efficiencies among partners, leverage existing resources, and increase collaborations. To that end, we coordinated 23 educator peer-to-peer instructional workshops at Idaho’s largest STEM professional development program (i-STEM), held 116 statewide collaborative meetings for the Idaho STEM Ecosystem, and co-funded 47 independently generated program proposals bridging employers needs with educational practice. Note: Selected Cases Managed were tracked beginning in FY 2021.

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Number of Professional Development workshops offered at i-STEM Institutes*	35	0	29	23
Number of statewide STEM stakeholder meetings facilitated**	-----	-----	47	116
Number of Public-Private Partnership funding opportunities	48	43	48	47

* Workshops were cancelled in FY 2020 due to COVID-19, held virtually in FY 2021, and in person in FY 2022.

** Tracking started in FY 2021.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measures		FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Goal 1: Increase awareness of the importance of STEM+CS education and workforce development						
1. Value of earned media for STEM-related efforts in Idaho.	actual	-----	-----	\$742,005	\$2,080,064.55	
	target	-----	-----	-----	\$800,000.00	\$2,000,000
2. Reach of earned media for STEM-related efforts in	actual	-----	-----	2,537,523	3,927,379	
	target	-----	-----	-----	3,000,000	4,000,000

Performance Measures		FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Idaho (consumer impressions).						
Goal 2: Advance equitable access to high-quality STEM + CS opportunities for educators, students, and community members.						
3. Number of educator utilizations of i-STEM regional library materials.	actual	-----	-----	Established common tracking platform	72	
	target	-----	-----	-----	60	90
4. Number of STEM designated schools	actual	-----	-----	6	7	
	target	-----	-----	-----	9	11
Goal 3: Align STEM+CS education with workforce needs						
5. Number of independently generated Public-Private Partnership proposals funded that involve collaboration of education, government, employer and/or other stakeholders.	actual	-----	-----	48	47	
	target	-----	-----	-----	50	50
6. Number of externships run to connect educators and college and career counselors with employers.	actual	-----	-----	26	27	
	target	-----	-----	-----	30	30

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

New metrics were adapted in FY 2021 to better reflect the impact of the agency’s work and its maturity, rather than previous event-based metrics, and were consolidated to reflect the direction the agency has taken under the leadership of Executive Director Dr. Kaitlin Maguire. The high performance for metrics #1 and #2 reflects STEM Action Center’s strategic focus on Goal #1 in FY 2022. For performance metric #4, nine schools were anticipated to go through the STEM school designation process in FY 2022, however, the certification process was delayed for several schools due to COVID-19. In spring 2022 four schools passed the certification process and will be designated in FY 2023, bringing the total number of schools to 11. Performance metrics #5 and #6 are dependent on industry partnerships which are contingent on outside factors such as a changing employee landscape and economy.

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