

2026 Externship Funding Rubric

Funding Changes: As the Idaho STEM Action Center & Workforce Development Council continues to expand the Educator Externship Program, we are moving toward a long-term sustainability model that ensures this opportunity remains available to educators and industry partners for future years to come.

In previous years, grant funds covered the full cost of Extern stipends. While we will still support placements this year, grant funding is limited. To continue delivering statewide impact, we are transitioning to a cost-share approach.

Why This Matters: This means Host Sites are encouraged to contribute to their Extern's stipend, either fully or partially. This shared commitment strengthens the long-term sustainability of the program, allows for a larger number of educator placements, and ultimately results in a greater impact on Idaho's future workforce.

What You Can Expect: To allocate available funding fairly and transparently, a scoring rubric will be used to assess Host Site applications based on:

- Alignment with Idaho's high demand & emerging industries
- Ability and willingness to contribute to stipend costs
- Strength of the project & learning experience for educators
- Capacity & interest in continued partnerships beyond this year

Host Sites demonstrating strong industry alignment and a commitment to cost-sharing will be prioritized for available grant funds. We recognize that some organizations — especially those in rural or resource-limited settings — may not have the ability to contribute financially, and we will consider those situations as part of our review.

Our Goal: The goal of this program remains the same: to equip Idaho educators with current, real-world industry knowledge that inspires students and prepares them for career pathways in Idaho's workforce. We appreciate your support as we continue to build a sustainable, high-impact program that benefits Idaho students, educators, and Industry Partners statewide.

If you have any questions about funding or the program in general, please contact the Program Coordinator. Halle.Fultz@stem.idaho.gov

Category	What Are We Evaluating	Points
Cost-Sharing Commitment	Host Site's willingness/ability to contribute to the stipend	5 points – \$2,500 or more match (full sustainability) 3 points – Partial match (<\$2,500) 1 point – No match
Industry Alignment & Growth	Does the Host Site operate in, or connect the educator to, a high-demand or emerging Idaho industry? (Healthcare, construction, advanced manufacturing, energy, tech, etc.)	3 points – Strong alignment 2 points – Moderate alignment 1 point – Limited alignment
Project Quality & Educator Learning	Clear, hands-on project that provides meaningful learning for educators, for example: • Exposure to career pathways and roles within the organization • Interaction with multiple departments or teams • Understanding employer expectations and workforce skills needed • Insight into work-based learning opportunities for students • Clear structure, goals, and deliverables for the extern	3 points – Strong alignment 2 points – Moderate alignment 1 point – Limited alignment
Host Site Readiness	Host Site demonstrates strong readiness, including: • A defined scope of work/project for the extern • Efficient onboarding process to maximize the 200-hour placement • PoC clearly understands expectations & responsibilities • Logistics like workspace, equipment, and resources are available • Plan to provide mentorship, guidance, and feedback throughout the program & beyond	3 points – Strong alignment 2 points – Moderate alignment 1 point – Limited alignment

Funding Guide Based on Score:

Total Score	Funding Recommendation
11-13 points	Grant award of up to \$2,500 toward the Extern stipend; Host Site expected to contribute the remainder to cover full stipend.
8-10 points	Partial grant award (e.g., \$1,000–\$2,000), depending on availability; Host Site must cover remaining stipend.
5-7 points	Consider only if funds remain; Host Site responsible for majority of stipend.
Below 5	Not eligible for grant award; Host Site must fully fund the stipend to participate.