

i-STEM FAQ

How do I apply to attend i-STEM?

All STEM AC professional development opportunities are competitive and you must apply to attend. To apply, [visit Our Opportunities webpage](#) and click on the [Create Account Instructions](#) to create an account or login to your account. Please allow yourself plenty of time before the application deadline to create an account and troubleshoot any issues.

After applying and receiving notification of acceptance in early April, you must confirm your spot by paying the registration fee via a registration link you receive in the acceptance email. Registration fees are non-refundable.

What workshops/strands will be offered?

You can view the workshops (aka strands) that will be offered at each location by visiting the webpage for each location, starting in January:

North Idaho College (Coeur d'Alene) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/nic>
Lewis Clark State College (Lewiston) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/lcsc>
Idaho State University (Pocatello) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/isu>
College of Southern Idaho (Twin Falls) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/csi>
College of Eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/cei>
College of Western Idaho (Nampa) – <https://stem.idaho.gov/apply/i-stem/cwi>

When you apply, you will indicate your top three choices for strands at each location. Pick strands based on content and grade levels.

Who can attend i-STEM?

Formal and informal public educators serving Idaho PreK-12 students can attend i-STEM with a \$90 registration fee. You don't have to be a STEM educator to attend, we encourage educators who teach any subject to apply. We also encourage informal educators such as librarians, museum educators and after school program educators to attend as well.

If you are a private school educator, retired, out-of-state educator, or vendor/for-profit educator, you can attend i-STEM for a \$1000 registration fee.

Which institute location should I attend?

We encourage you to attend the institute closest to where you teach, however, you can attend any institute you would like. Please note that we only reimburse travel to the institute closest to your home. For example, if you live in Twin Falls but attend i-STEM in Pocatello, you will only be reimbursed for travel costs to the institute in Twin Falls.

How are applicants placed in strands?

Participant applications are anonymously scored by two reviewers using the application rubric. Participants are placed in a strand based on their application score, their top strand choices and the grade levels they teach. If you do not get into your first choice strand, you will automatically be placed

into your second choice strand and so on, assuming that the grade levels of the subsequent strands match the grade level you teach. The i-STEM coordinator will reach out to you if there are any questions about this. If a spot opens up in your first choice strand due to a cancellation, we will notify you and ask if you would like to be shifted into your first choice strand. Strands are capped at 15 participants each.

What if I don't like the strand I was placed in?

If you do not want to attend the strand you are placed in, please reach out to the i-STEM coordinator (istem@stem.idaho.gov) and he/she will remove you from the strand and place you on the waitlist for the strand you prefer.

Can I receive credits for attending?

Yes, you can earn up to two credits for attending i-STEM and a third follow-up credit by developing lesson plans. You must attend all sessions all four days of the institute and submit your institute survey at the end. You have the choice to sign up for one credit (\$60) or two credits (\$120) for attending. These credits are through Boise State University Extended Studies K-12 Professional Development Office. To get transcripts or if you have questions about registering for credits, visit <https://extendedstudies.boisestate.edu/educatorsdevelopment/> or contact them at ExtendedStudies@boisestate.edu. The third follow-up credit is available through University of Idaho and is for one credit (\$60) either in the fall or the spring.

The syllabi for these courses are available on the [i-STEM website](#).

Can I attend two institutes?

Yes, you can attend both weeks of i-STEM at two different locations. If you would like to do so, please submit two applications. Please keep in mind that we will only refund travel to your closest institute location.

Will my travel be reimbursed?

Yes, your travel will be reimbursed. Please see our [travel reimbursement policy](#). After attending i-STEM, you must submit your mileage along with a map from home to training, any receipts (do not submit receipts for food; you will be reimbursed at the state per diem rate), agenda, and a W9 to STEM AC.

What is a typical day like at i-STEM?

Each institute is slightly different so please check individual institute websites for their agenda. Typically, the day starts off around 8am with breakfast and a general session. Then the group breaks off into individual strand instruction. Participants attend the same strand all four days. Participants come back together for a working lunch with a speaker, and then break off into individual strands for the afternoon. The group comes together again at the end of the day for a short general session. The third day of i-STEM is field trip day in which participants visit local businesses and points of interest, related to the content of their strand.

I got accepted but I can't attend – who should I contact?

If you can no longer attend i-STEM, please notify the i-STEM coordinator (istem@stem.idaho.gov; (208) 332-1720) ASAP. Please note that the registration fee is non-refundable.

I have specific questions about the location I am attending – who should I contact?

Please contact the Institute Coordinator for your location:

North Idaho College (Coeur d'Alene) – Gail Ballard at GjBallard@nic.edu
Lewis Clark State College (Lewiston) – Ken Wareham at KLWareham@LCSC.EDU
Idaho State University (Pocatello) – Chris Guthrie at guthchri@isu.edu
College of Southern Idaho (Twin Falls) – John Hughes at Jhughes@csi.edu
College of Eastern Idaho (Idaho Falls) – Frankie Adams at frankie.adams@cei.edu
College of Western Idaho (Nampa) – Shannon Murray at shannonmurray@cwidaho.cc

How do I check out items from an i-STEM library?

There is an i-STEM library at each institute location that contains materials and kits for educators to check out. Please visit the [i-STEM website](#) for contact information for each of the libraries.