



APPLICATION OVERVIEW AND ASSISTANCE

The Delaware STEM Educator Awards Application is comprised of two sections. Did you complete and submit Section 1 yet? If not, please complete it and submit it. This is a comprehensive application and the Delaware STEM Council *wants you to have the resources and assistance that you need to apply*. After receiving Section 1 of your application, we will reach out to you to see if you have any questions. Please contact us to ensure that you have a successful and strong application for our award! See [our website](#) for details.



PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Delaware STEM Educator Awards recognize teachers or teams of teachers that demonstrate STEM innovation and excellence through teaching, academic collaboration, and student engagement. Eligible teachers include those at the elementary, middle and high school levels of both traditional public & private schools, as well as educators in community programming. Applicants for this award include science (all fields), mathematics (all fields), computer science, engineering, and CTE educators. At least three unrestricted cash awards of up to \$7,500 will be given to each first-place winning teacher or team of teachers. To learn more about past award winners, please read this article from [November 2023 – Delaware STEM Council](#) or go to [DelawareSTEM.org](#)



DEFINITIONS

The Delaware STEM Council's and Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education's (DFSME) definition of STEM education and the Council's three goals are the basis for the preliminary evaluation of exemplary STEM practice in the classroom:

Definition of STEM:

STEM Education is an approach to teaching and learning that emphasizes integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for all students through student-focused, problem-based curricula and instruction. STEM education fosters creativity and innovation while developing communication, collaboration, and critical thinking skills through a focus on authentic and appropriate contexts in curriculum and assessment.

STEM Council Goals:

- Expand the number of Delaware students who ultimately pursue advanced degrees and careers in STEM fields and broaden the participation of women and minorities in these fields;
- Expand the STEM capable workforce to create, grow and attract STEM-related businesses to Delaware;
- Increase STEM literacy for all Delaware students including those who pursue non-STEM related careers, but need STEM skills.



ELIGIBILITY

Applicants can be certified K-12 teachers in the Delaware public & private school systems as well as exceptional educators who may be uncertified but still work with K-12 students in a focused STEM curriculum. Such a curriculum (science, math, engineering, technology, computer science and CTE) must still meet all expectations and goals of the Delaware STEM Council, as listed above. Programs can include before and after-school programs, weekend programming, and summer camps. Preference is given to published STEM curriculums and programs that have been vetted, and sustainable STEM programs and activities that have impacted many and can be replicated and scaled across the state and beyond.



SELECTION PROCEDURE

For the academic year, the Delaware STEM Educator Award Selection Committee (a group representative of the Governor's Delaware STEM Council and DFSME) will review all completed applications for certified educators and community programs and select *at least three* recipients of the prizes: at the elementary (K-5), at the middle (6-8), and at the high school level (9-12).



AWARD SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Electronic submission of application materials is required. All written components should be typed and double spaced using a standard 12-point font or larger. Be sure to include a running header including page numbers for the entirety of the application. Both written portions of the application and visual materials must be submitted electronically. Be sure that all files contain the same last name and district of at least one team member in order to assure that your submitted files can be kept together. Cloud storage and file sharing applications like Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox, etc., can be utilized for files such as video or large image files.



TIP: Start taking photos and videos **NOW** to ensure you have enough for your application! Don't save it for later!

Videos can be prepared by using a smartphone (Apple or Android), tablet, or computer. Several applicants have asked other teachers, students or administrators to assist in preparing the videos. You do not need to edit photos or videos! Editing of video materials will be done by the STEM Council for use at the award presentation.

Incomplete applications or those submitted without following the specified guidelines will not be considered. Ensure that your application communicates the information you intend. Submit all application materials to DelawareSTEMAwards@gmail.com

Completed applications and all supporting materials will be accepted on a rolling basis but must be received by 11:59pm Eastern time on August 15, 2025.



MEDIA CONSENT AND RELEASE

If you are selected as a recipient of the Delaware STEM Educator Award, the Delaware Governor's STEM Council and Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education (DFSME) reserve the right to reproduce information/photos/other content in promotional materials, on the Delaware STEM website, etc. When submitting materials that contain images, names, or are the products of students and other individuals or student work, you must determine if appropriate FERPA consent forms are required to release forms from your school district, which consent to the transmission to the Delaware Governor's STEM Council and/or DFSME of student images and work product that may be part of the student's educational record. A copy of the consent to release form(s) should accompany the materials provided to the STEM Council. If FERPA or other consent forms are not available, *the Delaware STEM Council will anonymize all students in your application media*. Please contact the STEM Council if you have any questions about this topic.



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

If the application is being created by a team of teachers, each of the following is required for every member unless otherwise specified.

Applications that are complete must include the following information:
(Please check all boxes to ensure that all materials are included in submission)



Completed section 1 application form(s) for each applicant(s) and school/organization's principal/administrator. (One per applicant.)



Photographs of the applicant(s) (Each applicant should submit both a headshot and photos with students). When submitting materials that contain images, names, or are the products of students and other individuals or student work, you must obtain appropriate consent to release forms from your school district or organization. Consent forms can include, FERPA, parent/guardian releases, etc., which consent to the transmission to the Delaware Governor's STEM Council and/or DFSME of student images and work products that may be part of the student's educational record. A copy of the consent to release form should accompany the materials provided to the STEM Council. **If you don't have consent forms, the STEM Council will anonymize all students in your submission.**



Resume that details the applicant's teaching certification, teaching experience, professional activities, formal and continuing education, awards and publications, and community involvement. This should not be a narrative and should not exceed two pages (one for each applicant).



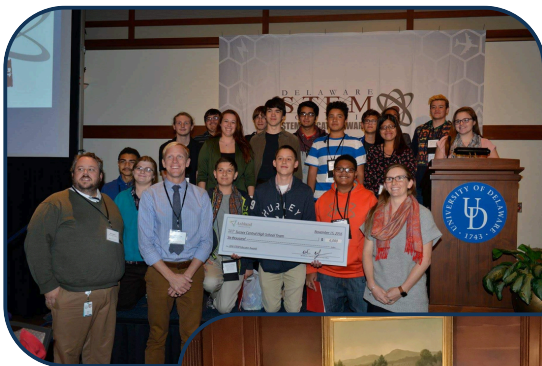
Typical one-week schedule including time and subjects taught. Briefly describe content or thematic base of course/program and student demographics (one page). This should be submitted as an individual or as a team, as necessary to explain your programming adequately.



INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD NARRATIVE

Instructional method narrative (maximum of five pages, double spaced) **(Only one per team should be submitted)**. Provide a description of the applicant's (or applying team's) program. The description should address all of the following:

- ☐ Use of current and applicable science, math, technology and engineering standards. (e.g. Common Core, NGSS, ISTE, DCSTA, etc.) Delaware State standards can be found at: <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/> Tab: Instruction and Assessment., Subtab: Standards and Instruction, or CTE Utilization of real-world application(s) or problem(s).
- ☐ Teaching various levels of students, including those who may be underrepresented in STEM, at-risk, or have differing abilities.
- ☐ Application of STEM Council goals.
- ☐ Application of the STEM Council's approach to STEM education by integrating at least three of the four elements of Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Mathematics.
- ☐ Why is your approach novel or unique? How could others replicate your program in their school, district or organization? How is your application significant to others teaching in the same field?
- ☐ Appropriate supporting evidence illustrating the above criteria.





CHECKLIST, CONTINUED

Please ensure that your application also contains:

- ☐ At least 2 letters of support describing the merit of the applicant(s) work with at least one from an education colleague and one from a head of school/organization or other administrator. Each letter should not exceed 2 pages. **A team application requires only TWO LETTERS OF SUPPORT as does an individual application.**
- ☐ A minimum of 10 media/content examples of student products illustrating the nature of STEM and/or evidence of STEM-based practices in accordance with STEM Council definition and goals should be included to provide physical evidence of descriptions provided in the narrative portion of the application. These may include visual representations of student work/videos/PowerPoints/photographs/etc. At least 1 video should be submitted as part of your application. *It should be noted that the quality of student products submission could affect scoring (see rubric).* **A team application requires only ten EXAMPLES OF STUDENT PRODUCTS and 1 video as does an individual application.**

The STEM Council does not expect expert photography or video production. If you require assistance with photos or videos, please email us and we will do our best to help you.

Upon receipt, all applications and supporting materials become the property of the Delaware Governor's STEM Council and/or DFSME. Late applications will not be accepted. All materials must be submitted electronically. Completed applications and all supporting materials will be accepted on a rolling basis but must be received by the application deadline. Submit your original application and supporting materials to: DelawareSTEMAwards@gmail.com

Please use a cloud-based application to send large files that do not fit in regular email correspondence. When using a cloud application to share your submission, please send the applicable URL to download the files directly to DelawareSTEMAwards@gmail.com. Be sure to include a subject line with your name (or your team's name) and school/organization's name. If you need to send more than one email to include all required documentation, be sure to include your name/team name and school name in the subject line of all emails sent and indicate how many emails we should expect.

After the application deadline has passed, you should plan to be contacted with additional information. We will also ask that you fill out documents pertaining to a possible winning of the awards, including IRS form W-9.

It is the Council's intention that the next running of the Delaware STEM Educator Awards will be presented in November. Applicants are required to attend from 12 noon to 8:00 pm. More information will be forthcoming in the months ahead, but the planned date is **November 13th 2025**, and the planned location is in New Castle County.



OFFICIAL JUDGES' SCORING GUIDE

Delaware STEM Educator Award OFFICIAL JUDGES' SCORING GUIDE
(For Reference to Applicant only)

Name of Applicant: _____

City/County: _____

Grade Level (circle all that apply):

K-5

6-8

9-12

Other

Circle One:

Certified Educator

or

Community Applicant

Criteria	Application is complete						Score
Criteria	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Superior	Weight	Score
Narrative - No more than 5 pages. Includes the following:							
a) Demonstration of current and applicable science, math, technology and engineering standards (e.g. Common Core, NGSS, ISTE, CTE, etc.).	1	2	3	4	5		
b) Implementation of innovative "out of the box" strategies that can be shared and adopted at other schools.	1	2	3	4	5		
c) Teaching of various levels of students, including those that may be underrepresented in STEM, at risk, or having differing abilities.	1	2	3	4	5	55%	
d) Demonstration of application of STEM Council goals.	1	2	3	4	5		
e) Demonstration of STEM Council approach to STEM education by integrating at least three of the four elements of STEM.	1	2	3	4	5		
Resume – Includes teaching experience and certification status, professional activities, formal and continuing education, awards, etc.	1	2	3	4	5	5%	
Letters of Support – 3 letters of support describing the merit of the applicant's work.	1	2	3	4	5	10%	
Student work evidence – Illustrates the nature of STEM and/or evidence of STEM-based practices in accordance with STEM Council definition and goals.	1	2	3	4	5	30%	
Comments:							
Judge:				Date:			