

STEM Endorsement Incentive Program (EIP) FAQ

What does the STEM Endorsement Incentive Program (Utah Statute 53E-6-903) do?

The Utah Legislature has allocated funding to the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to use to incentivize educators across the state to achieve endorsements in the STEM subjects. The USBE will be using these funds to provide reimbursement for applicable STEM endorsement coursework for both elementary and secondary educators for courses.

Eligible Endorsements*

ELEMENTARY ENDORSEMENTS:	SECONDARY ENDORSEMENTS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elementary STEM ● Elementary Mathematics ● Elementary Mathematics Specialist ● Educational Technology ● Elementary Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secondary Mathematics: Level 2 ● Secondary Mathematics: Level 3 ● Secondary Mathematics: Level 4 ● Secondary Mathematics for Special Education ● Biological Science ● Chemistry ● Environmental Science ● Earth Science ● Physical Science ● Middle Level Science ● Physics ● Computer Science and Information Technology (All included endorsements) ● Engineering and Technology ● Technology ● Engineering ● Health Sciences (All included endorsements) ● Educational Technology <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">*Please note that the college coursework pathway for the Ed Tech Endorsement is the only one eligible for this program</p>

*If a Local Education Agency (LEA) identifies a STEM Endorsement they would like to request be added to the eligible endorsement list above, please use this [form of appeal](#).

Please watch the [STEM EIP Webinar \(5/26/2021\)](#) for additional information

Program Qualifications

Who qualifies for this program?

Public educators on a current teaching contract earning one of the endorsements from the list above. Educators can pursue STEM endorsements through any Institution of Higher Education (IHE) and then seek reimbursement from their school district or charter.

How can a district or charter have educators apply for the program?

As it is the responsibility of the district/charter to confirm an educator's eligibility, an educator must apply with their district or charter to be accepted into the program. The LEA is responsible for putting in place a process that accounts for all program qualifications on the teachers' part.

We have created a [sample teacher application](#) districts and charters can use with their educators or use as a model to create their own.

Program Timeline

What is the program period?

To be eligible for reimbursement under the FY2022 STEM EIP award, courses must take place from July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022.

What is the timeline for reimbursement within the STEM EIP?

Districts/Charters can apply for reimbursement of coursework related to STEM endorsements at any time, provided the course is complete/eligible and the teacher meets all program qualifications.

USB E will be sending out qualifying reimbursement allocations for FY22 to LEAs four times in the 2021/2022 school year:

November 2021 (all qualtrics requests completed and approved by November 15th will be included)

January 2022 (all qualtrics requests completed and approved by January 15th will be included)

June 2022 (all qualtrics requests completed and approved by June 15th will be included)

September 2022 (all qualtrics requests completed and approved September 15th will be included)

Will this opportunity be available in the future?

At this point, the legislature has allocated these as on-going funds (meaning we get an additional \$1.2 million each year). The nature of on-going funds means that we will get new allocations to administer this program with every fiscal year until the legislature rescinds the program.

Program Reimbursement

What evidence is needed for reimbursement?

In order to seek reimbursement, districts/charters must confirm satisfactory completion of an eligible course for educators they have accepted into the program. Districts/charters will reimburse their educators then seek reimbursement from the USBE. The Qualtrics survey will require the following information:

- Educator(s) Name
- Name of Endorsement
- Name of Course
- Other Costs Associated with the Course
- Reimbursement Totals

How does applying for reimbursement work?

If you are an educator, please reach out to your [LEA representative](#) with evidence of qualifying coursework that has been completed (see above). If your LEA isn't on the above list, please reach out to Isaac Pitcher (isaac.pitcher@schools.utah.gov) and an administrator from your LEA to seek eligibility.

If you are an LEA representative seeking to submit reimbursements for your entire LEA, submit requests through this [Qualtrics Reimbursement Form](#). Reimbursements are only eligible for coursework taken within the current fiscal year.

What coursework is eligible for reimbursement?

Any course required for an endorsement from the list above, which is completed by a contracted Utah educator (earning a grade of C or better) from an accredited institution of higher education.

Do teachers apply for reimbursement through their District/Charter or the USBE?

Educators seeking reimbursement should reach out to their LEA to seek further details about opportunities in this space. Districts or charters seeking to be a part of this program should reach out to Nathan Auck, nathan.auck@schools.utah.gov for further details.

How much money can an educator receive in reimbursement for each endorsement course they take?

Each course included in elementary endorsements carries up to a \$500 reimbursement for both tuition and required course materials. Each course included in secondary endorsements carries an up to \$1200 reimbursement for both tuition and required course materials (this does not include courses that are for continuing education). Secondary courses earning endorsement credit through continuing education may earn up to \$500 for both tuition and required course materials.

*Technology expenditures are not an allowable expense for reimbursement.

What costs associated with the course are eligible for reimbursement?

Tuition costs, student body fees and course material costs are eligible for reimbursement provided the total reimbursement does not exceed the maximum reimbursement for each course (\$500 for elementary courses and \$1200 for secondary courses).

*Technology expenditures are not an allowable expense for reimbursement.

How does an educator calculate the cost of a course for reimbursement from WGU?

For courses with institutions such as WGU, tuition is paid per semester. Please calculate the amount paid per credit hour, and apply that to the qualifying endorsement courses when applying for reimbursement.

How can the program be administered at the District or Charter School Level?

In addition to offering reimbursement to educators for taking qualifying courses at an IHE, School districts or charters can also partner with an IHE to offer endorsement coursework and then receive reimbursement from this program by dividing the number of participants by the cost to run the course. Teachers served must still be identified on the reimbursement form to qualify for funding. Please see maximum allowable reimbursement amounts above.

*If the course exceeds the maximum per educator reimbursement, districts and charters can cover the cost with other means beyond reimbursement received from STEM EIP funding.

Can an educator get reimbursed for a secondary endorsement if they are not licensed to teach in a secondary setting (or vice versa)?

Educators interested in earning an endorsement in an area they are not licensed may apply for reimbursement.

Are educators eligible for STEM EIP reimbursement if they are getting an endorsement in an area they are not currently teaching in?

Yes! Educators do NOT need to be teaching in a particular endorsement area to qualify.

Are out of state courses eligible?

Provided the course would be approved for the qualifying endorsement, the course is eligible for reimbursement, even if it is out of state.

Can an educator get reimbursed for my Master's Program courses?

The only courses that are eligible for reimbursement through this program are the courses required to earn an endorsement listed above. If an endorsement course happens to be part of a Master's program, that course is eligible for reimbursement. The programs, themselves, are not eligible for reimbursement.

Can an educator apply for reimbursement for non-higher education credit bearing courses?

The statute which governs this allocation requires applicable courses to carry credit from an accredited institution of higher education. Therefore, because a non-higher education credit bearing course does not meet endorsement requirements, it would not be reimbursable.

Can an educator apply for reimbursement for courses that straddle fiscal years?

If the course straddles two fiscal years, meaning it began before July 1st, but concluded after July 1st, then reimbursement can be sought for that course in the latter fiscal year, once the course has been completed.

NEW FOR FY22: All teachers earning a qualifying STEM endorsement during the FY22 allotment cycle will earn a monetary incentive (whose amount is yet to be determined).