MiSTEM Network

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Place-, Project-, Problem-Based (3P) STEM Education Grants

Transforming STEM education with authentic learning.

Grant Overview

MiSTEM is reimagining STEM education using transdisciplinary approaches to create a STEM culture, empower educators and integrate communities and learning spaces to ensure high-quality STEM experiences for youth.

The MiSTEM Network will award up to $200,000 in grants (up to $20,000 per grantee) to boost STEM education and career exposure for youth.

An important focus of this grant program is planning to implement 3P learning. (Read more about the MiSTEM Network 3P (place, project and/or problem-based) learning efforts in Michigan here.)

Application deadline is 5 p.m. (EDT) on April 14, 2023.

Funding Opportunity Description

This competitive grant will support 3P efforts to do one or more of the following:

- Expand cross-curricular STEM learning
- Connect 3P learning to a district continuous improvement plan
- Create community and business partnerships
- Expose and prepare students for future career opportunities
- Grow the next generation of critical thinkers to identify and solve complex problems

Funding Source

Funding for this grant opportunity is provided by the Department of Education, through the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's MiSTEM Network's 99s7 grant.

Award Information

The grants are funded through support from the MiSTEM Network. It is anticipated that approximately $200,000 will be available in FY2022-23 to fund eligible applications.

Award Period

- Award period is July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.
- Applicants will be evaluated on readiness and feasibility for completion within the designated timeline.

What Benefits Will Grantees Receive?

In addition to grant funding, grantees will receive the following benefits:

1. Engagement in communities of practice (CoP)
   a. Educators — support for teaching 3P pedagogies
   b. Administrators — systems change and sustainability for 3P
   c. Community partners — facilitate partnerships through MiSTEM
2. Promotions for grantee, such as vignettes in a MiSTEM Playbook
3. 3P professional learning for educators/administrators
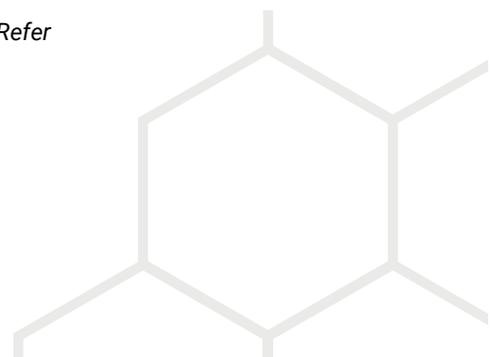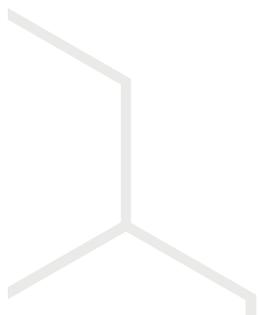4. Connections to strategic partnerships to enhance and grow their work

Expectations of Grantees

Proposed Activities	Estimated Time Frame
Secure grant contract with MiSTEM at GVSU	May 26, 2023
Participate in Grant Kickoff Workshop	June 2023
Attend 3P pedagogy professional learning (PL)*	August 2023
Participate in communities of practice (CoP)	4 times/year
Provide reviews of MiSTEM Playbooks ([Example playbook here)](#)	2 times/year
Expand, enhance or take steps to institutionalize 3P learning	2023-24
Allow for MiSTEM to profile your 3P programs for inclusion in a playbook and potential conference promotions	2023-24
Participate in grant evaluation	Completed by May 2024

NOTE: There will be no registration costs for professional learning offered through our partners. Applicants should account for travel and food expenses in budget proposals. Refer to the [FAQ](#) for details.

Required Consortium Members

Required Eligible Applicants & Required Consortium Members

- An applicant must be a 501(c)(3), an institute of higher education (IHE), a community or adult education program, a public library, a local government, an intermediate district (ISD), a local education agency (LEA) or a public school academy (PSA).

- Successful applicants are expected to partner with other LEAs, ISDs, community partners and/or local business partners in their grant application.

Ineligible Applicants

Ineligible Applicants

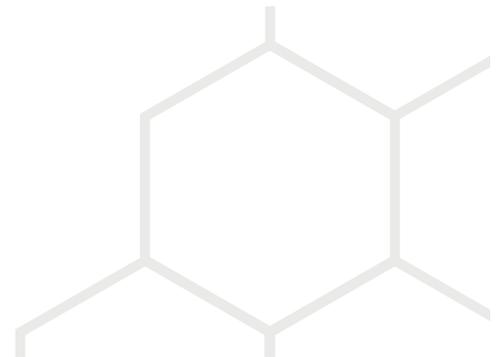- Grants cannot be awarded to individuals.

Technical Assistance

Technical Supports

1. **Technical Assistance Webinar** — attend the webinar to learn about the grant content and focus areas and obtain answers to questions that potential applicants might have about the grant. Attendance is encouraged but is not required. The webinar will not be recorded but the presentation slides will be available after the meeting.

   - **Date: March 14, 2023**
   - **Time: 4-5 p.m. (EDT)**
   - **Webinar Registration Link**

2. **Technical Assistance** will be available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday. This is provided to respond to specific needs for information, support or troubleshooting throughout the grant cycle. Enter questions or other information needed online here.

How to Apply

Submit a written grant application with the online form by 5 p.m. (EDT) April 14, 2023.

Online Grant Application Submission Information

Grant Application Questions MUST be submitted using the online form.

Online Application Submission Information:

1. Organization applying for the grant
2. Information about the applicant, including:
   - Applicant district and mailing address
   - Authorized representative's name, title, email address and telephone number
   - Name, title and contact information of primary contact person, if different from that of applicant's authorized representative
3. Amount requested up to $20,000
4. A description of how the applicant wishes to begin, expand or institutionalize their STEM 3P education experiences using these grant funds.
   Include information about:
   - Connections with partners
   - How the program is embedded with supports outside of grant funds
   - Connections to various learning contexts, careers and subject areas
   - Proposed timeline with specific tasks
   - Percentage of youth being served who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals
5. Description of previous, current or proposed efforts with 3P and STEM contexts
6. Describe the outcomes that will be achieved if the project is funded
7. List the personnel, including their role in the project and any prior experience working in this domain
8. List the community and/or business partners and describe their role in the project
9. Create copy of budget template and submit the required budget template

Award Notification Information

Criteria for Acceptance

- **Successful applicants will receive notification via email by May 19, 2023,** that the application was approved **by MiSTEM at GVSU**.
- **Approved applicants will have five business days to respond** with appropriate acceptance of the grant funds.
- Applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with MiSTEM at GVSU that includes standard terms and conditions that are not subject to modifications.
- Failure to comply will result in cancellation of the grant award.

Grant proposals are considered public information under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, PA 442 of 1976, as amended.

Proposed Documentation & Evaluation Criteria

Funding will be based on the applicant's intent to reach underserved communities*, clarity of the application, utilization of 3P learning and demonstrated need.

*The term "underserved communities" refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Application Priority Criteria:

- Extent to which the population served is eligible to receive free and reduced lunch.

- Extent to which the population served represents underserved communities, with an emphasis on students of color.

- Geographic distribution across the state, including rural and urban areas. (Link Available)

- Extent to which the applicant demonstrates a need for the grant funds.

The data collected will be used to enhance MiSTEM Playbooks and to continuously improve future MiSTEM Grant applications. Permission to use videos, photos and names associated with the school will be requested as needed.