

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Utah State Board of Education

FROM: Diana Suddreth
Director, Teaching and Learning

DATE: May 12-13, 2016

ACTION: STEM School Designations 2016

Background:

The STEM School Designation process was assigned to the STEM Action Center in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education in the 2014 Legislative session (H.B. 150). In fall 2014 the Utah State Board of Education approved the ten Dimensions, and reviewed the full rubric as a discussion item in fall 2015. The pilot year process involving portfolio application, stakeholder review, and school site visits was concluded in April 2016. Through the review process, nineteen Utah schools are being recommended for STEM School Designation awards for 2016.

Board Strategic Plan:

This item supports the Quality Learning Imperatives and strategies in the Board's Strategic Plan by setting STEM school designation standards with high expectations to promote each student's academic success.

Anticipated Action:

It is anticipated the Standards and Assessment Committee will review and make recommendations to the Board for approval of the nineteen schools for STEM School Designation at the level recommended by the stakeholder review team and the STEM School Designation awards for 2016.

Contact: Sarah Young, 801-824-3013
Diana Suddreth, 801-538-7739
Rich Nye, 801-538-7550

Utah STEM School Designation Pilot 2015-2016



Prepared by the
Utah State Office of Education

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Sarah Young, STEM Liaison

Sarah.Young@schools.utah.gov

Diana Suddreth, Director Teaching and Learning

Diana.Suddreth@schools.utah.gov

Rich Nye, Acting Deputy Superintendent

Rich.Nye@schools.utah.gov

Utah STEM School Designation Pilot 2015-2016



Overview:

The Utah STEM Schools Designation program was developed to define the criteria and elements necessary for a school to create a comprehensive STEM learning environment for their students. The program allows schools to engage in discussions with faculty and community partners around STEM education as a lens for strong instruction for students to prepare them for college and career readiness. The designation also serves as an indicator for members of the public who are looking for STEM school experiences in Utah K-12 education.

Timeline:

- Spring 2014: Legislated to the STEM Action Center in partnership with the Utah State Board of Education in 2014 Legislative session (H.B. 150)
- Fall 2014: Utah State Board of Education approved the ten Dimensions
- Winter 2014: Survey of other state STEM designation processes and planning with USOE STEM specialists
- March 2015: Meeting with Outlier Research from University of Chicago on STEM School Study
- April/May 2015: STEM Stakeholder review of draft in April 2015, with 10-Day public review period in May 2015
- August 2015: Approved by STEM AC Board and released to community for pilot year – <http://stem.utah.gov/for-educators/stem-schools-designation>
- September 2015: Presented to the Utah State Board of Education as Information Item
- October 2015: STEM School Designation Pre-Application completed (42 schools)
- December 2015: Submission of first round of STEM School Designation Portfolios (8 schools)
- January 2016: Stakeholder Review Panel for first round of STEM School Designation Portfolios (8 schools)
- February 2016: Submission of second round of STEM School Designation Portfolios (15 schools)
- March 2016: Stakeholder Review Panel for second round of STEM School Designation Portfolios (15 schools)
- March 2016: Submission and Review Panel for third round of STEM School Designation Portfolios (3 schools)
- April 2016: STEM School Designation Site Visits for Gold and Platinum Designation Schools (6 schools)
- May 2016: Request for Utah State Board of Education approval for STEM School Designations as recommended by review panel.

Utah STEM School Designation Pilot 2015-2016

Recommendations for STEM School Designations for 2016:

Platinum (2 schools)	Gold (4 schools)	Silver (6 schools)	Bronze (7 schools)
Beehive Science and Technology Engineering Academy (Charter)	DaVinci Academy (Charter)	Foothill Elementary (Alpine)	Green Acres Elementary (Weber)
Crimson View Elementary (Washington)	Hurricane Elementary (Washington)	Manila Elementary (Alpine)	Itineris Early College High School (Charter)
	Neil Armstrong Academy (Granite)	Mountainville Academy (Charter)	Sunset Elementary (Bronze)
	Woodruff Elementary (Logan)	Overlake Elementary (Tooele)	Utah County Academy of Sciences (Charter)
		Quest Academy (Charter)	Draper Park Middle School (Canyons)
		West Point Elementary (Davis)	Mount Jordan Middle School (Canyons)
			Union Middle School (Canyons)

The pilot year has created a strong program for Utah STEM School Designation that is based on research, reflects the needs and vision for Utah K-12 education, and allows for revision and modification based on feedback. The process employed an action plan with multiple steps that engaged experts and stakeholders to create a robust STEM designation program for Utah schools. For additional information or to view the Utah STEM School Designation Pilot, please visit: <http://stem.utah.gov/for-educators/stem-schools-designation/> or contact STEM Liaison, Sarah Young, sarah.young@schools.utah.gov.