

CULTURALLY SPECIFIC AND CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

\$2.2 million invested



What is this initiative?

The ESSER 'After School STEM' grant has successfully funded 14 different projects, impacting a broad range of 64 school districts, including educational service districts, the Federal Bureau of Indian Education, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Our initiatives have allowed us to impact the lives of students across Portland Metro, Willamette Valley and North Coast, Southwestern Oregon, Central Oregon, and Eastern Oregon, reflecting a statewide commitment to enhancing STEM education.

Goals

Our grant-funded projects embody the ESSER III 'After School STEM' initiative's commitment to fulfilling the academic needs of students while addressing their social and emotional development through culturally specific STEM education. Each project is dedicated to uniquely providing a culturally responsive educational approach while being equitable, which is illustrated in a few of our key successes:

- » Club de Amig@s en STEM has developed a culturally responsive E-Textiles lesson plan and conducted four cohorts of family workshops, primarily engaging indigenous populations in STEM learning experiences.
- » Building Blocks 2 Success's robotics program has extended to include more middle and high school students, integrating a college prep and career pathways program in collaboration with local colleges and universities.

- » Frontier Afterschool Makers is actively establishing permanent Innovation Stations in classrooms, labs, libraries, and community centers within remote rural areas, addressing a critical gap in STEM resources for these communities.
- » East Metro ESports has established 9 E-Sports and CS Teams, engaging an average of 13 students per term across nine schools in 3 different school districts, with an ongoing campaign to expand this successful model to schools in the Portland Public and surrounding School Districts.

Benefits

As we progress through this funding cycle, our priority is to enhance our 14 projects continuously to ensure they evolve to meet the needs of a changing educational landscape and underserved students. Our project successes are testaments to our vision of a future where every student in Oregon has access to STEM learning that reflects their culture, identity, and aspirations for a more inclusive and dynamic educational environment.



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Use of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds in Oregon

Since 2020, Oregon has received \$1.62 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds to support the needs of all students, with a focus on historically excluded communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The state has allocated 90 percent of its allotment to school districts to spend based on their community's unique needs. ODE has distributed the other 9.5% (0.5% used for Administrative costs) to support 12 equity-driven initiatives designed to address unfinished learning, support our students' and staff's health, safety, and mental wellness, and strengthen high-quality, culturally-sustaining instruction and leadership. These initiatives are designed for all students and are specifically centered on equitably serving Oregon's Black, Latino, Latina, Latinx, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Tribal students, students with disabilities, students who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+; emerging bilingual; and those navigating foster care, houselessness, and poverty, and those with limited access to resources due to rural location.