

## STEM Endorsement Incentive Program 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"> <li>● <a href="#">Elementary STEM</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Elementary Mathematics</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Elementary Mathematics Specialist</a></li> <li>● Elementary Science (coming soon!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Secondary Mathematics: Level 2</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Secondary Mathematics: Level 3</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Secondary Mathematics: Level 4</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Secondary Mathematics for Special Education</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Biological Science</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Chemistry</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Environmental Science</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Earth Science</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Physical Science</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Middle Level Science</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Physics</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Computer Science and Information Technology (All included endorsements)</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Engineering and Technology</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Technology</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Engineering</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Biotechnology</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Medical Forensics</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Educational Technology</a></li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small;">*Please note that the college coursework pathway for the Ed Tech Endorsement is the only one eligible for this program</p>

\*Endorsements that were identified for reimbursement in this program were chosen based on an analysis of the criticality index regarding the highest need areas regarding teacher attraction and retention. If a Local Education Agency (LEA) identifies a STEM Endorsement as a high need area because of geographic location and it is not on the above eligibility list, the LEA representative may fill out the following [form of appeal](#).

### **Who qualifies for this program?**

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

### **What is the program period?**

To be eligible for reimbursement under the 2021 STEM EIP award, courses must take place from July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

### **What is needed for Reimbursement?**

In order to seek reimbursement, districts must confirm satisfactory completion of an eligible course. The following information is required:

- Teacher Name
- Name of Endorsement
- Name of Course
- Verification of Satisfactory Completion of the Course - Copy of transcript of course and final grade.
- Receipt(s) for course tuition & additional approved course material costs.

### **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.

### **Who do I send my reimbursement information and receipts to?**

Educators seeking reimbursement should send information listed above to Lorraine Jolley via email at [lorraine.jolley@jordandistrict.org](mailto:lorraine.jolley@jordandistrict.org).

### **How much money can I get reimbursed for each endorsement course I 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 do I calculate the cost of a course for reimbursement for 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.

### **Can I get reimbursed for a secondary endorsement if I am 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.

### **Am I eligible for STEM EIP reimbursement if I am getting an endorsement in an area I am 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 I 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 I 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 I apply for reimbursement for courses if I started prior to July 1, 2020?**

If the course straddles FY20 and FY21, meaning it began before July 1st, 2020 but concluded after July 1st, 2020 then you can seek reimbursement for that course. If the course concluded prior to July 1, 2020 that course is no longer eligible for reimbursement.