
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

STEM Best — Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF)

Purpose and History

The Future Ready Iowa Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers (BEST) Program awards grants to community collaborations between schools and business partnerships. The Program seeks to bridge cultures between businesses and schools through education programs in the fields of manufacturing, information technology, bioscience, finance, and more while focusing on business applications. In FY 2023, the General Assembly transferred the Program from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to the Department of Education.

Funding

The General Assembly appropriates \$700,000 annually from the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF). These STEM initiatives are also supported through the \$6.4 million General Fund STEM Collaborative Initiative appropriation.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [256.111](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [681—14](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

STEM Best Program: lowastem.org/STEMBEST

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