
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

STEM Best — Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund

Purpose and History

The Future Ready Iowa Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Businesses Engaging Students and Teachers (Best) Program was created through 2012 Iowa Acts, [SF 2321](#) (Education Appropriations Bill), under the STEM Collaborative Initiative. The Governor's [STEM Advisory Council](#) was also created in SF 2321 to oversee STEM programs and is headquartered at the [University of Northern Iowa \(UNI\)](#) at the Governor's STEM Advisory Council Operations Center.

The STEM Advisory Council has awarded 75 [STEM Best Program](#) grants since 2014 to grow community collaborations involving school 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.

Funding

2021 Iowa Acts, [House File 871](#) (Economic Development Appropriations Act), appropriated \$700,000 in FY 2022 from the [Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund \(SWJCF\)](#) to the [Iowa Economic Development Authority \(IEDA\)](#) to use for the STEM Best Program. The Program is also funded through an annual appropriation within the [Board of Regents](#) to the UNI for the Math and Science Collaborative. In FY 2022, \$6.4 million was appropriated to the Collaborative in 2021 Iowa Acts, [HF 868](#) (Education Appropriations Act), unchanged from FY 2021. Out of this FY 2021 appropriation, \$500,000 was budgeted to the STEM Best Program by the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. STEM Programs funded through the Governor's STEM Advisory Council include:

- Regional STEM Scale-Up Programs
- STEM Teacher Externships Program
- STEM Best Program
- Computer Science Is Elementary Round II
- Statewide IT Certification Program
- Statewide Teacher Professional Development

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [268.7](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [681—14](#)

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More Information

STEM Best Program: lowastem.org/STEMBEST

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