



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: June 1, 2023
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Dr. Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative: a state-funded, after-school initiative. The purpose of the Grant Initiative is to increase awareness of careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) among teachers and students through STEM-related, problem/project-based, team-building activities. Grant applications are due before **4 p.m. on July 23, 2023**.

Grant awards are available to Virginia schools/divisions that have demonstrated an interest in establishing new STEM competition teams and will serve as model schools for the STEM Competition Team Initiative.

State funding of up to \$5,000 per school year is available to public elementary, middle, and high schools where at least 40 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Schools applying for the first time can use the funds for planning purposes and will be eligible to receive a second year (initiative expansion) grant in the subsequent year.

A school division may apply for grant funding to establish and then support STEM competition teams for one or more qualifying schools in the division. Total funding is limited to \$10,000 per school division, per year for eligible schools.

Applications should be emailed to vdoe.stem@doe.virginia.gov before 4 p.m. on July 23, 2023. For additional details, refer to the attached STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Guidance

Document (Attachment A) and STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Application Packet (Attachment B).

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Brendon Albon, Director of STEM and Innovation, at (804) 786-2481 or brendon.albon@doe.virginia.gov.

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Attachments:

- A. [STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Guidance Document](#) (Word)
- B. [STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Application Packet](#) (Word)