



STEM

Science
Technology
Engineering
Math

Certificate Renewal Q&A

A program of Educational District 112 supporting Washington State Learning Standards for math and science

What is the RCW concerning STEM requirements?

As per RCW 28A.410.221 beginning September 1, 2014, continuing education or professional growth plans for teachers at the elementary and secondary levels in STEM-related subjects must include a specific focus on the integration of science, math, technology and engineering instruction.

Which endorsements are required to document STEM content?

- Elementary Education (K-8) Endorsements
- Early Childhood Education (P-3) endorsement
- Mathematics (5-12)
- Middle Level Math (4-9)
- Technology Education
- Science (5-12)
- Middle Level Science (4-9)
- Designated Sciences (5-12): Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Space Science, Physics
- CTE continuing certificate holders -all endorsements/specialty areas (VCODES)

When do I have to start documenting STEM hours?

Beginning on September 1, 2019, renewal applications for Residency, Professional, and Continuing teacher certificates along with CTE certificates must document completion of at least 15 clock hours, or at least one goal from an annual professional growth plan (PGP), with an emphasis on STEM integration to meet this renewal requirement. STEM integration is the authentic combination of at least two of the STEM components (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

What is the STEM criteria?

The intent of the RCW is to ensure students have exposure to authentic STEM integration experiences which align to state learning standards including information about STEM-related career choices. The intent is for educators to incorporate the learning from the STEM activity within their professional practice such as a classroom or professional development opportunity (PLC, staff meeting, district level workshop, etc.).

The educator must participate in or demonstrate implementation of a STEM activity. The learning or activity must demonstrate authentic integration of science, technology, engineering and math, **incorporating at least 2 of the 4 STEM elements**. Only one element out of the STEM learning experience is not considered an authentic STEM experience.

The STEM activity must also comply with the following Guiding Questions:

What are the STEM Guiding Questions?

Providers of STEM-related continuing education will design workshops/course offerings to ensure educators will meet the renewal requirements by answering "yes" to the following questions:

1. Will the STEM activity have an impact on STEM experiences for students?
2. Does the STEM activity provide examples or resources to use with students or with other educators?
3. Does the STEM activity provide examples or resources about STEM-related career choices to use with students?

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