
WASHINGTON STEM AWARDS \$300,000 IN EARLY MATH GRANTS TO SUPPORT INCREASING EQUITY IN EARLY MATH

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Seattle – Washington STEM awarded \$300,000 in grants for Increasing Equity in Early Math to nonprofit organizations and state education agencies to further the development and impact of focused solutions for educational equity in early math.

All funded projects will focus on equity by producing high-quality resources and service models designed with direct feedback from the communities they aim to serve - those who are furthest from opportunity. Some projects will build upon existing structures within the public education system to strengthen math experiences for children from preschool through third grade, while others will leverage community partnerships to engage families, caregivers, and community-based preschools to create meaningful connections with math in their everyday lives.

The resources and models developed through each of the funded projects, described below, will be available for broader use by summer of 2018.

“Math is a critical part of the STEM ecosystem and is embedded in every STEM field. These grants will be used to provide the earliest of learners with high quality, high impact math education,” said Patrick D’Amelio, CEO of Washington STEM. “These grants represent a holistic effort to improve systems, refine and amplify best practices, and develop new and innovative approaches to early math.”

Recipients of the Early Math Grants include:

Puget Sound ESD on behalf of the Association of ESDs will build the capacity of the Early Learning Fellows in each of the nine Educational Service Districts to support the implementation of high-quality math programs in schools and across regional communities. The Association of ESDs will drive systems alignment to ensure that math is prioritized in early learning classrooms. They will work to develop math content knowledge along a developmental continuum, build leadership around working with peers to impact change, and increase the Fellows’ ability to effectively support their local educators and caregivers in using the Early Learning Math Modules developed by OSPI.

Zeno has developed a promising model for working closely with the communities they serve - offering games to increase kindergarten readiness, create positive math mindsets, and inspire kids to love math in multiple languages and tailoring their delivery approach and location to best meet their needs. They will continue to test and refine this model in South King County while expanding into one additional region.

ESD 112 will provide resources and training for teachers and families across southwest Washington to foster productive math routines based on everyday observations and experiences. Main activities will include developing math lessons to be integrated into existing STEM kits, developing a booklet that provides recommended math activities, and distributing sets of family engagement cards to frequently visited businesses to inspire the idea that math can be observed and practiced anywhere.

Northwest Educational Service District will bring preschool and kindergarten teachers together for professional learning focused on developing common strategies to identify where learners are and how to support their growth in order to support a smoother transition for students from preschool to kindergarten with an emphasis in mathematics. They will also strengthen the math component of the preschool to kindergarten Transition Report, a report provided by preschool teachers to kindergarten teachers in the summer to help them better support their incoming kindergarteners.



Ready! for Kindergarten will develop numeracy resources that are culturally sensitive and specifically designed for families who are low income, minority, or who speak little to no English. These resources will empower families with the skills, activities, and materials needed to teach their three- to five-year-old children the foundations of numeracy in the home.

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Story Time STEM includes the development and implementation of a set of toolkits to support mathematical learning among young children through read-alouds and meaningful discussion of mathematical concepts in the context of children's literature. Kits will span three content areas including Counting and Cardinality, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, and Geometry. These resources will be generated in close partnership with the King County Library System and Everett Public Schools and will be accompanied by professional learning opportunities for educators.

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About Washington STEM

Washington STEM is a statewide nonprofit advancing excellence, equity, and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. For more information, go to www.washingtonstem.org.

