

Guidelines for STEM BEST® Program Curriculum

STEM BEST® Program models will inspire lifelong learning within interdisciplinary environments, stimulating constructive connections between life and the work world that awaits. A robust STEM curriculum that is relevant, dynamic and focused on personalized, deeper learning for students and educators will include:

- Instructional strategies that support project-based learning
- Create/Implement STEM-focused, career-driven curriculum demonstrating concepts of the Iowa CORE standards
- Focusing on:
 - Critical thinking
 - Complex communication
 - Creativity
 - Collaboration
 - Flexibility and adaptability
 - Productivity and accountability
- Authentic assessment
- Career and college readiness as key outcomes
- Integration of arts and culture curriculum when appropriate

Successful STEM BEST® Program models engage business, economic and workforce development, and higher education in co-development of curriculum aligned to the needs of local workplaces while meeting the state academic standards.

The diagram below discerns high demand skills identified by business and industry that are essential for a skilled workforce. Within a strong STEM BEST curriculum there are opportunities embedded for students to become familiar, practice and develop these future-focused skills to be successful no matter their post-secondary pathway.

