

STEM Scale-Up Program

FY27 Educator Application Rubric

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beginning in 2026, the goal of the STEM Scale-Up model is to provide sustained support to educational organizations and schools over a three-year period to strengthen educator professional practice and enhance student learning. How will this Scale-Up **Program** contribute to sustained **educator development** and **student learning** during the **three-year period** within your organization/school? Be sure to address (3,000-character limit):

- Educator development
- Student learning
- How that will be accomplished by the specific Scale-Up program
- How that will progress over time in the three-year period of the award

NOTE: For the purposes of this application, *Scale-Up Program* refers to one of the following: *Exploring AI and the Future of Work* presented by CodeJoy LLC, *FIRST Tech Challenge* presented by the University of Iowa, or *STEM Wonder* presented by the Iowa Board of Regents'. The specific program being applied for is indicated by the applicant within the application.

Score	Reason for assigning the score
4	<p>Clear, focused overview includes educator development, student learning, and addresses the progression of each across the three-year implementation period. Description is specific to the Scale-Up program sought.</p> <p>Provides a clear, coherent three-year vision showing how the Scale-Up program sought is embedded into the organization's instructional strategy.</p> <p>Clearly explains how educator growth translates into improved student learning outcomes, with specific examples.</p> <p>Demonstrates strong systems for sustainability, including leadership support, dedicated staff, and alignment with curriculum standards.</p>

Score	Reason for assigning the score
3	<p>Overview includes a clear description of the educator development, student learning and one other component is not fully described (e.g., progression over time or specific connections to the Scale-Up program).</p> <p>Presents a well-defined plan for supporting educator development and student learning across the three years for the Scale-Up program sought.</p> <p>Makes a clear connection between educator development and student learning.</p> <p>Identifies key supports (staff, time, resources) that will help sustain implementation.</p>
2	<p>Overview includes a description of the educator development and student learning, but other components are not fully described (e.g., progression over time or specific connections to the Scale-Up program) OR the overview includes a clear description of two of the components, but is lacking detail in the other two components.</p> <p>Provides a general outline of how the program sought will support educators and students over time.</p> <p>Mentions student learning benefits, though connections to educator development are broad or implied.</p> <p>Sustainability is acknowledged but lacks specific structures or long-term planning.</p>
1	<p>Overview includes a description of one of the components, but is lacking detail in the other three components.</p> <p>Focuses primarily on short-term activities rather than sustained development.</p> <p>Limited explanation of how educator development will impact student learning.</p> <p>Few organizational supports or systems are identified.</p>
0	<p>Information provided does not address the question.</p> <p>Does not address the three-year timeframe.</p> <p>Fails to connect the program to student learning outcomes.</p> <p>No evidence of organizational commitment or sustainability.</p> <p>Response is vague or incomplete.</p>

PROGRAM INTEGRATION

How will the STEM Scale-Up Program integrate with your current instructional practices (e.g., STEM units, lessons, curricula, etc.)? Please provide a specific example.

Score	Reason for assigning the score
4	Detailed description of integration into established practices/programs. Includes details about the school/organization's current instructional practices AND details how the Scale-Up program connects to those practices.
3	Description provides a detailed overview of the organization's current instructional practices, but provides general connections to Scale-Up Program OR the description provides specific connections to the Scale-Up program, but provides a general overview of the organization's current instructional practices.
2	Limited description of program integration, missing some important details of how this Scale-Up program aligns with current school/organization practices/programs.
1	Missing critical details of how this Scale-Up program aligns with current practices.
0	Response is vague or incomplete.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Describe how you anticipate implementing this Scale-Up program within your organization/school. In your description of your implementation plan, please address the context in which the program will be implemented. That is, where the program will be implemented, the students participating in this Scale-Up program, and when the program will be used over the course of this three-year implementation cycle (3,000-character limit).

Score	Reason for assigning the score
4	Detailed description of how you anticipate implementing the program, including where it will be implemented within your organization (e.g., age band/grade level, course, physical location, etc.), a description of the youth who will be participating in this program, and approximately when during the upcoming academic year you anticipate implementing this Scale-Up program if selected.
3	Detailed description of two components (e.g., area of implementation within an organization, youth involved, and anticipated time of implementation), but the third component is not clearly described.
2	Detailed description of one component, but the others are not clearly described.
1	General description of implementation plan.
0	Response is vague or incomplete.

ALIGNMENT WITH ORGANIZATION'S PLANS

How will this specific Scale-Up program advance your organization's goals (e.g. strategic plan, vision, mission, or school improvement plan)? (3,000-character limit)

Score	Reason for assigning the score
4	Clearly connects and describes how the Scale-Up program will advance specific goals, priorities, or strategies named in the organization's strategic plan, mission, vision, or improvement plan.
3	Response includes general organization goals , and a specific description of how the Scale-Up program will advance goals OR response includes specific organization goals , and a general description of how the Scale-Up program will advance goals
2	Response includes general organization goals and a broad description of how the Scale-Up program will advance those goals.
1	Response references general organizational goals or Scale-Up program alignment, but lacks clarity or specificity regarding how the program advances with organizational goals.
0	Response is vague or incomplete.

GOALS AND BENCHMARKS

Describe the specific goals you hope to achieve each year of implementation and the outcomes you will look for that may indicate success over the course of this three-year program. (3,000-character limit)

Score	Reason for assigning the score
4	Response includes specific and detailed description of the goals for years one, two, and three of implementation, and includes clear desired outcomes that progress over time.
3	Response includes specific and detailed description of the goals for years one, two, and three of implementation, and includes some progression over time OR the response includes a general description of the goals for years one, two, and three of implementation, and includes some desired outcomes that progress over time.
2	Provides goals for each year, but goals may be general, repetitive, or unevenly developed.
1	Goals or general outcomes are described for some years, but are missing or unclear across the three-year period.
0	Does not clearly describe goals for each year.

ADDRESSING GAPS

What specific needs or gaps do you hope this program will address over the three-year period?

Score	Reason for assigning the score
4	Response includes a specific and detailed description of the needs and gaps that the Scale-Up program will address over the three-year period.
3	Response includes specific and detailed description of the needs and gaps to be addressed but does not have a clear connection to the program OR the response includes a clear connection to the program but does not have a specific and detailed description of the needs and gaps to be addressed. May not fully address progression over time.
2	Response identifies general gaps, but does not specifically connect them to the Scale-Up program or describe progression over the three-year implementation period.
1	Response does not include an adequate description of one or more aspects of goals, outcomes, or progression over time.
0	Response is vague, incomplete or misaligned with program goals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

(Unscored Questions):

To help us better understand the needs of our applicants, please provide the following information: (open response)

1. What might your expectation be for this program to extend the professional learning of your educators who may have some experience with this program?
2. Which educators included in your application have prior experience with the program you are applying for?
3. Which educators in your application are currently using materials associated with this program?
4. Given the Iowa STEM Council's priority to reach every child in the state of Iowa, what strategies will you use to ensure that all learners could participate in this STEM program?