



Cobb STEM Distinguished Educator Awards Program

Application Year 2023-2024

Purpose

The Cobb STEM Distinguished Educator Awards Program is designed to recognize exceptional K-12 teachers in the Cobb County School District who have made a commitment to meaningfully implementing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in their classroom. *Teachers may use their work for this award to upload as evidence into the TKES platform.*

Guidelines

Teachers are given a choice of activities they may complete to earn points. Activities/artifacts are loaded into an electronic portfolio and then verified by the CCSD STEM & Innovation Department Committee.

Timelines:

Submissions for any of the award levels are due **July 1, 2024**. Activities submitted for points must have been completed **within the last 2 years** prior to the due date. A committee reviews the portfolios, and awards are given once per year in the Fall.

Eligibility:

Participants must be certified, K-12 teachers in the Cobb County School District. Award designations are valid for five school years, then renewal is optional.

Submission:

First-time applicants

- Create an electronic portfolio that can be shared. A recommended method is using O365's OneNote notebook to organize your portfolio by categories (Professional Learning, Integration, etc.) and Code Numbers (PL-1, PL-2, etc.). You could also create a website or use OneDrive/Google Drive.

- The use of folders (by categories) is requested if using Google Drive or something similar. When uploading files, please be sure to include the code number of the artifact *in the file name* so that it is easily identifiable to the review committee.
- **When submitting your link, be certain your link is viewable by “ANYONE.”** Do not “share” it with any specific person’s name, because a committee TBD reviews the portfolios.

Renewal applicants

- Renewal is optional but shows your commitment to staying current with STEM practices and involved in STEM initiatives in your classroom and school.
- Submit a narrative or portfolio describing how you are staying current in 3 of the 6 categories (see tables that follow). Provide 1 artifact for each chosen area’s activity code. Each artifact should be accompanied with a short narrative on how you are staying current in that particular area.

Application

- Once your portfolio is complete (by July 1, 2024), submit this brief application form to indicate your application type: <https://forms.gle/2nyZTyGKJQMd9JER8>

Awards & Recognition*

- **First-time applicants:** Teacher will be recognized on the STEM Cobb website, receive a certificate, various STEM Cobb swag (including a branded t-shirt, lanyard, etc.), and a Cobb STEM Distinguished Educator logo to use beneath their name/email signature.
 - **Top Point Earner:** Teacher will receive all benefits from above, as well as a Sphero robot (or similar STEM resource) and a trip to a GA educator conference of their choice.
- **Renewal:** Teachers who renew will receive a personalized name plate/trophy for their classroom (or comparable prize TBD depending on availability).

*We will attempt to recognize all winners at a school staff meeting, if permitted by local school admin.

Activity Categories & Point Requirements

- To earn an award (first-time applicants only), a teacher must:
 - Complete at least 1 activity from a minimum of 4 of the 6 categories that follow.
 - Earn at least 500 badge points.
- Please note: Each code listed in each category (see charts on next pages) can only be counted once in a school year, unless noted otherwise.

Professional Learning

Code	Criteria	Points	Evidence
PL-1	Attend a non-mandatory local math, science, CTAE, or STEM professional learning conference. <i>Virtual participation is acceptable.</i>	25	Copy of certificate of completion/proof of participation OR photos of you at the event.
PL-2	Participate in Cobb's STEM Innovation Academy (4 dates required throughout the year for K-8; 3 dates for 9-12).	25 per day attended	Verified by STEM & Innovation Department.
PL-3	Attend a STEM-related presentation at a state, regional, or national professional learning conference. <i>Virtual participation is acceptable.</i>	25	Copy of certificate of completion/proof of participation OR photos of you at the event with identifying features in the background.
PL-4	<i>Present</i> a STEM-related session/workshop at a district, regional, state, or national conference. <i>Virtual presentations are acceptable.</i>	50	Copy of conference program or your presentation.
PL-5	Earn a math, science, or STEM endorsement from an accredited institution (this is typically earned by elementary teachers and is different from certification areas for grades 6-12).	250	Copy of teaching certificate showing endorsement.
PL-6	Propose your own PL activity to tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org (this must be done PRIOR to application due date for advance approval).	TBD	TBD

Integration

Code	Criteria	Points	Evidence
I-1	Create an integrated STEM or PBL lesson that can be shared with other teachers across the district through CTLS.	25	Submit your plan to the STEM & Innovation Department for feedback/review.
I-2	Implement the (above) lesson and create a video showing implementation that can also be shared with other teachers.	50	Submit your video.
I-3	Provide evidence of differentiated student STEM tasks/products that meet the needs of a variety of learners (English language learners, advanced learners, students with disabilities, etc.)	25	Student work samples/photos showing differentiated products.
I-4	Create an integrated STEAM lesson which meaningfully implements fine arts standards (dance, music, theatre, or visual).	25	Submit your lesson plan.
I-5	Propose your own Integration activity to tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org (this must be done PRIOR to application due date for advance approval).	TBD	TBD

Business/Community Partnerships

	Criteria	Points	Evidence
BC-1	Conduct a STEM activity with a business/community/post-secondary partner.	25	Submit photos or videos of activity and provide a brief description.
BC-2	Collaborate with a business partner to develop an authentic, real-world lesson for students based upon the role of that business in the community.	25	Submit lesson plan and name/email of business partner.

BC-3	Seeks out and establishes a partnership within the community.	25	Submit documentation of partnership.
BC-4	Participate in a teacher externship program with a local STEM business/industry.	25-50 depending on length	Submit documentation of participation.
BC-5	Propose your own Partnership activity to tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org (this must be done PRIOR to application due date for advance approval).	TBD	TBD

Student Participation

Code	Criteria	Points	Evidence
SP-1	Sponsor a STEM-related club/team at your school (ex: robotics, Science Olympiad, etc.).	100	Submit documentation of club meetings (agendas, photos of members, etc.).
SP-2	Take your sponsored team to a regional competition.	25	Submit documentation of participation in regional event.
SP-3	Organize and run a STEM-related fair/night at your school.	75	Submit documentation of event.
SP-4	Create/sponsor a STEM club targeting underrepresented groups in STEM fields. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex: Girls Who Code 	50	Submit documentation of club meetings (agendas, photos of members, etc.).
SP-5	Engage class in a semester or year-long citizen science project or PBL activity.	50	Submit documentation of project.
SP-6	Involve your class in a STEM-related experience such as GA STEM Day or Hour of Code.	25	Submit documentation such as registration and photos of event.
SP-7	Propose your own Student Participation activity to tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org (this must be done PRIOR to application due date for advance approval).	TBD	TBD

Leadership

Code	Criteria	Points	Evidence
L-1	Participation in Cobb Teacher Leader Academy (STEM, Science, or Math cohorts).	100	Submit photos, agendas, or Legacy/Impact Project.
L-2	Provide outreach to teachers <i>within or outside</i> your school seeking to increase STEM expertise.	25	Submit documentation of correspondence and contact information of mentee.
L-3	Submit a proposal to Cobb Tank (see www.cobbtank.com for updated info).	25	Verified by STEM & Innovation Department.
L-4	Apply for any STEM-related grant to support your classroom or school.	25	Submit copy of grant application.
L-5	Volunteer for a CCSD STEM & Innovation Department Event (Cobb Tank, Science Olympiad, Drone Competition, etc.)	50	Photos of you at event with description of your volunteer role.
L-6	Propose your own leadership activity to tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org (this must be done PRIOR to application due date for advance approval).	TBD	TBD

Technology Integration

Code	Criteria	Points	Evidence
TI-1	Demonstrates effective use of technology in the classroom where students are <i>producers/creators of STEM digital content</i> (Examples: student-created video, app, portfolio, etc.) <i>This activity code can be used up to three times.</i>	25	Samples of student products.
TI-2	Propose your own Technology Integration activity to tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org (this must be done PRIOR to application due date for advance approval).	TBD	TBD

Please contact Tania Pachuta, STEM Professional Learning Coordinator, with any questions.