



## STEM Certification FAQs

*So, your school is interested in earning STEM Certification. What do you need to do to prepare for this? Who's involved? See below for answers to some common questions!*

### ➤ What is STEM Certification?

- Cobb STEM Certification recognizes schools that provide Cobb students with STEM-enriched learning opportunities above and beyond the exemplary practices found in all Cobb schools. STEM schools are committed to helping students cultivate critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for future success in STEM related college and career fields.
- Certification is based on a specific set of criteria/guidelines. It usually takes a school 2-5 years to earn STEM Certification (depending on the type).
- 3 Options for STEM Certification
  - Cobb (must complete first); AdvancED; GA DOE

### ➤ Where do I start?

- Organize a STEM committee or team at your school & schedule a meeting with Sally Creel.
- Optional: Complete a STEM inventory of current practices
  - Digital version available from the STEM Cobb department
- Schedule a STEM Overview/Training with Sally Creel for impacted staff members (generally at a staff meeting).
- *Please see the next page for a sample timeline of achieving STEM certification.*

### ➤ What support is available?

- District PL – Innovation Academies, one day trainings and more are posted on [STEMCobb.com](http://STEMCobb.com)
- Content specific – We have a number of professional learning specialists that are content specific that will work with your teachers - FREE.
- Digital – Follow us on Twitter @STEMCobb or on Facebook. Also visit [www.STEMCobb.com](http://www.STEMCobb.com) for resources, opportunities and more.
- School Collaboration – We're learning together!
  - STEM Walks – School admin are invited to walk at Cobb schools seeking certification
  - STEM Visit Days – Visit Cobb schools on dedicated STEM days to see STEM in Action. The STEM department will provide 2 subs per school per visitation. Dates posted on [STEMCobb.com](http://STEMCobb.com).

### ➤ Who do I contact?

- Dr. Sally Creel, Supervisor [sally.creel@cobbk12.org](mailto:sally.creel@cobbk12.org) c. 770.547.6489
- Tania Pachuta, Ed.S, Professional Learning Specialist [tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org](mailto:tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org)

## Sample Timeline for Cobb STEM Certification

*\*Times of year are just an example; could start at any time.*

- **Spring 2019**
  - Principal/admin reach out to Cobb STEM Department to indicate interest, ask questions, and set up initial meeting.
  - Cobb STEM Department meets with admin and/or STEM committee of teachers to explain the process and answer any questions.
  - School staff are encouraged to attend the summer STEMpalooza conference (in June each year).
- **September 2019**
  - Cobb STEM Department provides a STEM Overview/Training to impacted staff members (usually during a staff meeting after school).
  - Principal sends a team of at least 4 teachers to the STEM Innovation Academy (provides four STEM “mini-conferences” throughout the year as well dedicated team collaboration time; team begins working on STEM Certification Portfolio).
  - Admin starts thinking about when their first STEM Walk for feedback should happen and gets on the calendar for a walk (a 2 month notice is recommended).
- **December 2019** (or whenever admin feel STEM integration is happening enough in order to receive feedback)
  - School has their first STEM Walk and receives feedback from the walk team. *Please see the Cobb STEM Walk FAQ document for advice on setting up a walk.*
  - School takes feedback to continue moving forward and be prepared for the next walk.
- **March 2020**
  - School has their second STEM Walk and receives feedback to move forward.
- **Summer 2020**
  - Staff encouraged to attend STEMpalooza summer conference.
- **Fall 2020**
  - School schedules either an additional walk or the final walk to determine certification (depending on readiness of school after consultation with Cobb STEM Department). The STEM Certification Portfolio is due by the final walk.
  - School sends another team to STEM Innovation Academy for ongoing PL.