



STEM/STEAM Certification FAQs

➤ What is STEM/STEAM Certification?

- Cobb STEM/STEAM Certification recognizes schools that provide Cobb students with STEM-enriched or STEAM-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 1.5 to 2 years to earn Cobb STEM/STEAM Certification.
 - 3 Options for STEM Certification: Cobb (recommended first); Georgia DOE; Cognia

➤ Where do I start?

- Organize a STEM/STEAM committee or team at your school.
- Building or STEM/STEAM Leadership should complete the [STEM/STEAM inventory](#) of current practices.
- Schedule a staff-wide overview training with the STEM/STEAM & Innovation department.

➤ What supports are available?

- STEM/STEAM Department-provided PL – customized to your school's specific needs.
- Content-specific PL from the district's professional learning coordinators (math, science, fine arts, etc.)
- Digital
 - Visit www.STEMCobb.com for resources, opportunities, and more.
 - Follow us on X @STEMCobb.
- School Collaboration – One Team!
 - STEM/STEAM Walks – School administrators are invited to be a part of the district review teams for schools currently working toward STEM/STEAM certification.
 - STEM/STEAM Certified School Showcase Days – Visit Cobb schools on publicized STEM/STEAM days to see STEM/STEAM in action. The STEM/STEAM & Innovation department will cover the cost of two subs per school (per visit day) if needed. Dates are posted on www.STEMCobb.com as they become available.

➤ What's next?

- Start compiling a certification portfolio and collect artifacts to support certification criteria.
- When ready, reach out to the STEM/STEAM team to schedule a STEM or STEAM walk of your school. In general, 3-4 walks are required before achieving certification. Certification is dependent on demonstrating consistent growth through the certification process. See *the following page for more information about STEM/STEAM walks*.

➤ Who do I contact with questions or to get started?

- Dr. Adam Casey, STEM/STEAM & Innovation Supervisor (adam.casey@cobbk12.org)
- Tania Pachuta, Professional Learning Coordinator (tania.pachuta@cobbk12.org)

Cobb STEM/STEAM Walks



STEM/STEAM & INNOVATION

Who is on the district team that will be walking our school?

- The district team that participates in STEM/STEAM walks is typically composed of the STEM/STEAM & Innovation Supervisor (Dr. Adam Casey), Professional Learning Coordinator (Tania Pachuta), other content area supervisors, PLCs, principals, administrators, and/or teachers that have been invited from across the district.

How long is a typical visit?

- This varies, depending on the size of your school. However, 2-3 hours is average. Please create a tour schedule ensuring enough time for us to see STEM/STEAM in practice at the various grade levels and content areas. *A sample schedule is provided below.*

What should I do to prepare for this day?

- Prepare a STEM/STEAM Overview presentation for your school. Hearing about your school/demographics and the history of STEM/STEAM implementation will set the tone for your walk. [Click here](#) for sample overview presentations.
- It's also helpful to preview the lessons that will be observed on the walk, to provide context for your visitors. Providing the walk team with unit/lesson plans (either electronically or paper copies) is recommended.
- Develop a walk schedule for the day and arrange for an administrator or STEM lead teacher from your school to lead the walk and be available for questions from the team. [Click here](#) for sample STEM/STEAM walk schedules.
- Consider how you will feature your community partners and their involvement with your STEM/STEAM programming.
- Please provide a digital copy of the overview presentation, lesson plans, and walk schedule to the STEM/STEM & Innovation Department at least 3 business days prior to your walk.

What will the district team be looking for and how will we receive feedback?

- The district team will utilize and reference the Cobb STEM/STEAM Certification Criteria when observing the classrooms and providing feedback. Feedback is given both verbally and in writing (following the walk).
- Written feedback is referenced during each subsequent walk, and growth is expected in the suggested areas each time.

Sample Elementary STEM/STEAM Walk Schedule

Time	Grade Levels	Rooms
8:30 AM – 8:45 AM	Welcome & STEM/STEAM Overview	Learning Commons
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Visit Kindergarten Classrooms	723, 724, 725, 726
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Visit 1 st grade Classrooms	100, 101, 103, 104
9:15 AM – 9:30 AM	Visit 2 nd grade Classrooms	210, 212, 214, 216, 217
9:30 AM – 9:45 AM	Walk committee debriefs K-2 nd observations	CCC/Collaboration Room (301)
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Visit 3 rd grade Classrooms	301, 302, 303, 304
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Visit 4 th grade Classrooms	408, 409, 414, 416
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Visit 5 th grade Classrooms	500, 501, 502, 503, 505
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Visit Specials or Additional Areas of Interest	Special Needs PreK (700) and School Gardens
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM	Walk committee debriefs observations from 3 rd -5 th and provides schoolwide feedback on certification indicators. This will include the next steps and suggestions for the next visit.	Learning Commons