



STEM.LD

NISWONGER FOUNDATION

[STEM.LD WEBSITE](#)

STEM.LD Program Updates

- **School Updates**
 - Both cohort 1 and cohort 2 treatment schools (39 schools) are fully onboarded; control group 1 (13 middle schools) will begin onboarding in spring 2023.
 - Staff professional development continues as needed for those schools who have new staff; administrator training for newly onboarded schools will take place again in summer 2023.
 - Though recruitment is officially closed, the scaling initiatives in STEM.LD have allowed us to create flexible opportunities to add at least two more high school partnerships.
 - Treatment schools continue to operate with their deep-dive partners; the process to re-up or switch those partnerships have begun for treatment and control group 1 schools.
- **Partner Updates**
 - Partners continue to meet quarterly and revise their offerings to respond to school demand. For example, BioBuilder is designing Biology 1 kits to better integrate their materials and curriculum into more biology classrooms.
 - Walters State is offering new welding summer camps to middle schoolers for the first time.
- **Advanced Coursework and Dual Enrollment (DE)**
 - Opportunities for advanced coursework are being developed at pace. Two new DE courses (statistics with R and intro to data science) will be offered at ETSU in fall 2023.
 - Niswonger Online will be getting a new complete Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway via Cybersecurity 1 and 2 courses that are currently being developed.

- **Presentation Opportunities**
 - **STEM.LD staff presented during an EIR webinar on February 7, 2023. Presentation topics included APR, budget, and communication processes.**
 - **STEM.LD, OpenSciEd, and TNTP had a proposal accepted to present at NSTA in late March. In addition, STEM.LD is working with Websedge Limited to create a 5-minute video that will be showcased at the NSTA conference. The video will focus on student impact in rural schools.**
 - **STEM.LD staff have been encouraged to apply to the Tennessee CTE Summer Institute to discuss the work around creating a BioSTEM pathway in rural schools. Application is underway and will be submitted by March.**
- **Ongoing Projects**
 - **Bi-monthly newsletters have been a hit in getting out the word about the grant. STEM.LD social media accounts are actively promoting the work; a calendar of events on the website is active but still a work in progress.**
 - **The request for Proposal for a STEM App to connect students and educators with STEM opportunities is complete and has gone live for response; target date for beta testing is fall 2023.**
 - **The evaluation team is preparing for spring data collection from schools.**
- **Recent Events**
 - **February 4, 2023 – Robot Drone League (RDL) Championship Bermuda Triangle Challenge**
 - **February 6, 2023 – OpenSciEd Online Training**