

STEM

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

SUPPORT



Family engagement best practices and the world of STEM together form a powerhouse for high quality ELO programming that we hope afterschool sites adapt to their needs and abilities and integrate into their everyday practices. The grant options listed herein are built on a STEM-based family engagement toolkit and workbook that wraps best practices for family engagement around STEM programming and outreach. Even if your program is not currently STEM-centered, it is easier than ever to accomplish successful STEM learning with the multitude of free curricula resources available today including Mizzen by Mott lessons, Beyond School Bells curricula, and the IF/THEN Collection activity sheets.

Using STEM as a family engagement platform provides opportunities to break through barriers between programs and families with fun, hands-on, productive activities and breaks through barriers between students and STEM career pathways by empowering caregivers to support their kids in ways they may not otherwise have felt equipped to do.

The remainder of this pamphlet provides an overview of support Beyond School Bells offers for afterschool programs to intentionally and equitably deepen family engagement practices through STEM. There are four levels of support and an additional summer package option; all of which are drawn from best practices and current research that are designed to meet programs where they are.

Program Ingenuity

Beyond School Bells wants to support program site initiatives and ideas that reflect each program's unique capability and ingenuity. Funding may be used for additional ideas not laid out in the support guide with prior approval – please share your thoughts and ideas with us!



Beyond School Bells
nebraskachildren

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT TIERS

TIER 1

Amount: Up to \$1400 in reimbursable costs

Grant Length: Two school quarters

Level: New programs or programs that have not historically had a high level of family engagement.

Grant Requirements:

- Become familiar with the STEM Next Family Engagement planning workbook and toolkit^[1]
- Hold three staff meetings to discuss toolkit and workbook
 - Grant dollars can be spent on providing meals and paying staff at meetings.
- Gather feedback from caregivers at least once
- Provide narrative reports to BSB at designated intervals
- Optional: Additional ideas (see page 7)
- Site-driven ideas if applicable (see Program Ingenuity Section)

^[1] Toolkit and workbook available on BSB website or send request to BSB staff.

TIER 1A

Amount: Up to \$1700 reimbursable costs

Grant Length: Two school quarters

Level: New programs or programs that have not historically had a high level of family engagement that have completed Tier 1 requirements.

Grant Requirements:

- Tier 1 Requirements completed
- Gather feedback from caregivers (building on first round of feedback from Tier 1)
- Hold at least one STEM-based family engagement event with meal provided that incorporates feedback received during previous quarter outreach
- After event, gather feedback from parents/caregivers about event
- Provide narrative reports to BSB at designated intervals
- Optional: Additional ideas (see page 7)
- Site-driven ideas if applicable (see Program Ingenuity Section on page 2)

TIER 2

Amount: Up to \$3500 reimbursable costs

Grant Length: 1 school year

Level: Programs that practice some level of family engagement but want to become more intentional and are ready to deepen practices.

Grant Requirements:

- Tier 1 Requirements to be completed in first quarter of school year
 - By end of second quarter, sites must gather feedback from parents/caregivers
- During third quarter, a STEM-based family event² with meal provided that incorporates caregiver feedback collected in quarter 2 and gather parent/caregiver feedback after event
- During fourth quarter, a STEM-based family event with meal provided that incorporates caregiver feedback collected in third quarter and gather parent/caregiver feedback after event
- Narrative reports to BSB at designated intervals
- Optional: Additional ideas (see page 7)
- Site-driven ideas if applicable (see Program Ingenuity Section)

^[2] 21st CLC sites are required to hold four family engagement events per school year and to have advisory boards composed of students, staff, parents, and community partners for input on all components of their program. CLC sites should talk to BSB Team about how to integrate requirements.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT TIERS

TIER 3

Amount: Up to \$5,500 reimbursable costs

Grant Length: 1 school year

Level: Programs with a strong foundation of family engagement practices that are ready to deepen level of intention, incorporate current best practices and innovations, and serve as models for other sites.

Grant Requirements:

- **Tier 1 Requirements** to be completed in first quarter of school year
- Full implementation of STEM Toolkit and Workbook
 - **Share completed workbook** with BSB
- **Provide feedback on toolkit and workbook** use at end of each semester
- Minimum of **three parent feedback discussions** (in quarters 1-3)
- Minimum of **four STEM-based family engagement events** with meals provided (CLC sites will already be meeting 4 events per school year requirement[3] – CLC sites should actively pursue additional events with this grant and incorporate STEM into the events)
- Administer **take home STEM family backpack** activities for families each quarter and report back to BSB on their usage
- **Implement full set of additional ideas**
- **Narrative reports** to BSB at designated intervals
- Site-driven ideas if applicable (see Program Ingenuity Section)

[3] 21st CCLC sites are required to hold four family engagement events per school year and to have advisory boards composed of students, staff, parents, and community partners for input on all components of their program. CLC sites should talk to BSB Team about how to integrate requirements.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

Additional ideas are required for Tier 3 support and are optional for Tiers 1 and 2. Tiers 1 and 2 may select options that fit with their site capabilities, goals, and practices.

- Development of printed, email, and social media **weekly communications** to caregivers that give updates on site activities, what students participated in, topics covered in program activities, and conversation-starter questions for caregivers to use to initiate conversations with students about program activities. Communications should be simple, easy to read, and translated where needed.
- Each staff member **directly communicates** with at least 5 parents/caregivers per week via email, phone, in-person, or social media to share something positive about specific student's program participation. Make sure to include hard to reach/less engaged families in individual outreach.
- Sites **collect and curate curricula** for at-home activities caregivers and students can do together to include on program web site and to share in weekly or monthly communications. Can hold in-person or online curricula demonstrations.
- **Recruit families to participate in take home backpack kits** created through BSB and 4H/Extension partnership.



SUMMER GRANTS

Amount: Up to \$1,500 reimbursable costs

Grant Length: 1 camp/club session and/or 1 event

Summer family engagement grants may be used for the following:

1. A community-wide end of summer afterschool program celebration that highlights the accomplishments of summer programs and looks ahead to fall programming. Elements of event include:

- Invite district and school leadership
- Invite families and reach out to diverse and hard-to-reach families (translation of materials where necessary)
- Take donation/potluck offerings from families to supplement provided main dish
- Showcase completed summer activities and upcoming fall programming
- Provide STEM activities for families to do together at event

2. Develop set of communication materials to share with caregivers as camp/club progresses. Communication element options may include:

- Development of printed, email, and social media communications to caregivers (distributed daily or 2-3 times per week) that give updates on daily activities, what students participated in, topics covered in program activities, and conversation-starter questions for caregivers to use to initiate conversations with students about program activities.

3. Add or enrich family engagement event as end of summer club/camp experience. Elements should include:

- Take donation/potluck offerings from families to supplement provided main dish and share their favorite foods
- Showcase camp/club accomplishments and upcoming afterschool programming
- Provide STEM activities for families to do together at event

