



## STEM Fellowship 2025-2026

ROI is excited to announce that the 2025-26 STEM Fellowship will be designed for upper elementary and middle school educators (grades 5-8). The STEM Fellowship is a year-long professional development program to support elementary and middle school educators in developing innovative STEM teaching practices and leadership skills. Regional Opportunity Initiatives' (ROI) Occupational Needs Assessment (ONA) emphasizes the importance of having STEM-literate students to meet current and future workforce needs within our region, and the majority of these jobs will require some form of post-secondary degree or credential. The region needs skilled talent to keep up with growing employer demand in the advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and national security and defense sectors. Developing a robust STEM ecosystem can have significant long-term positive implications for growth and economic prosperity.

A key finding from the ONA is the transferability of STEM-related skills and competencies across our key sectors. A STEM-literate and competent student is able to be successful in a variety of fields. ROI is keenly aware that middle grades are a critical time for exploration of STEM content areas as students prepare for high school pathway decisions. We believe one solution is to support upper elementary and middle school educators in further developing STEM teaching skills that help students increase self-efficacy and view science, technology, engineering, and math content as accessible and attainable. The STEM Fellowship will give educators the opportunity to:

- participate in monthly professional development on STEM integration and teaching practices,
- connect with regional partners through key sector industry tours and career information sessions, and
- become part of a regional STEM Fellowship network.

Ultimately, the goal is to activate a cohort of educators across the region who will:

- grow as educational leaders and STEM experts throughout the fellowship year,
- participate in their own learning through provided professional development,
- provide STEM support to colleagues, and
- contribute to the Uplands regional STEM teacher network.

This STEM Fellowship cohort will be selected to participate in a 10-month fellowship from August 2025 through May 2026. STEM Fellows will be identified through a principal or superintendent nomination process and subsequent brief teacher application. Fellowship candidates are considered on the basis of their potential for expanding and building capacity for STEM education, leadership skills, commitment to being part of the Uplands STEM community of practice, and commitment to regular collaboration with other Fellows. Professional development will focus on hands-on experiential learning and innovative technology. Each event will also showcase relevant industry and college & career connections. Professional development topics include, but are not limited to, the engineering design process, artificial intelligence, coding, microelectronics, and regional career-connected learning.

### **Who should be nominated:**

Selected Fellows will be expected to attend all monthly STEM Fellowship professional development events, serve as a STEM mentor to peers, and be a catalyst for STEM growth within their school and/or district. Fellows will receive a \$1,500.00 stipend and teaching materials for participation in the Fellowship year. Stipend amounts are based on attendance at all Fellowship events. PGPs will be provided by ROI for all Fellowship events. School corporations will be responsible for substitute teacher costs.

The ideal STEM Fellow will be:

- an educator serving in an elementary or middle school (5-8) in the Uplands region,
- strongly committed to learning about and improving STEM education,
- an emerging teacher leader willing to influence practices of new STEM learning models and content with fellow faculty,
- supported by school administration to carry out STEM initiatives within their school, and
- positioned to actively contribute to the Uplands STEM Community of Practice by sharing ideas and networking.

### Principal or Superintendent Nomination and Educator Application Process:

Principals or superintendents may nominate teacher(s) from their building/district via ROI's online grant portal. View the video linked below for assistance setting up an account and accessing the nomination and application forms. ROI will review nominations, and selected nominees will be invited to apply once the nomination window closes.

[ROI Online Grant Portal](#)

*Create an Account: Step by Step Video*

Nominations are due from principals or superintendents by **5pm on Friday, April 18th**. Completed teacher applications are due by **5pm on Monday, May 5th**.

### Timeline:

April 7 - April 18, 2025	Nomination Window	Completed by Principal or Superintendent <b>Deadline:</b> Friday, April 18, 2025
Due May 5, 2025	Educator Application Window	Completed by Nominated Teacher <b>Deadline:</b> Monday, May 5, 2025
By May 16, 2025	Selected Fellows Notified	Email from ROI
August 27-28, 2025	Kick-Off Event	In person
October 2025- May 2026	Ongoing Professional Development	Fellows meet in person monthly

### Anticipated Outcomes:

Upon completion, STEM Fellowship educators will:

- have increased competency in integrating STEM concepts and relevant regional career connections into daily instruction,
- serve as a conduit for STEM growth at the building, district, and regional levels,
- be an active part of a regional network of STEM Fellows, and
- work with community partners to enhance the real-world relevance of STEM.

### Questions?

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