



# The Colorado STEM Ecosystem Approach

## S.T.E.M.

This is a word used frequently in education, research, and industry. Its origin is the acronym “S.T.E.M.” for science, technology, engineering, and math, but the term is often used without clarifying its meaning, and people may mean it in very different ways. The Colorado STEM Ecosystem’s definition is borrowed from the many places where STEM simply means learning experiences and workforce pathways that support interdisciplinary problem-solving. While some affinity groups add additional letters to represent their focus (e.g., STEMM to include medical fields or STEAM to include arts), our definition is intentionally broad to support coalition building. Our hope is to get more people to the same decision-making table, not less.

## Ecosystem

In ecology, an ecosystem is a diverse community that coexists in a physical environment, interacting in balanced ways that support all the organisms. The STEM Ecosystems community strives to draw from the scientific idea of ecosystems to represent its research-based efforts to build networks for the sharing of resources and expertise among leaders from education, business and industry, non-profits, philanthropy, and others.

## Why Join?

Across pK-12 districts, out-of-school providers, museums, governments and businesses, Ecosystems are forging relationships and helping build sustainable partnerships. There is amazing STEM-based education and industry happening all over the state, but how does anyone find out about it? How can we partner with each other to share lessons learned and move forward more efficiently? These partnerships shouldn’t depend on who you know, or how well resourced your organization is. Colorado can only solve its own problems if we have spaces that support and encourage our collaboration.





# Registered Organizations

Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
Adams State University  
Anythink Libraries  
Byers School District  
Center for Advanced STEM  
Education, MSU Denver  
Charles Hay World School  
CIRES Education & Outreach  
City of Northglenn  
City of Westminster  
Colorado Afterschool Partnership  
Colorado Alliance for  
Environmental Education  
Colorado Space Grant Consortium  
Colorado Springs School District 11  
Colorado State Forest Service  
Colorado Succeeds  
Community College of Denver  
CSU Extension Arapahoe County  
CU Science Discovery, University  
of Colorado Boulder  
Dakota Ridge High School  
Denver Area Council, Boy  
Scouts of America  
Denver Audubon  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
Denver Public Schools  
Denver Urban Gardens  
DSST Public Schools

Earth Force  
eduKatey, LLC  
Ellicott School District 22  
EnCorps STEM Teachers  
Program  
Erie Elementary School  
Esri  
Fort Lewis College  
FutureForward at Bollman  
Garden To Table  
Garfield School District  
Girls Inc. of Metro Denver  
Global Green Education  
High Point Financial Group  
IBM  
Jeffco Public Schools  
Kids2GLOW, PBC  
Littleton Public Schools  
MAST Institute  
Metropolitan State  
University of Denver  
Microsoft Philanthropies  
TEALS Program  
MindSpark Learning  
Monaco Elementary  
MSU Denver Noyce  
U-R STEM  
National Renewable Energy  
Laboratory

Northglenn High School  
Northstar Dental  
Paler High School  
Pinnacle Charter School  
Project IDEA  
Project Lead The  
Way (PLTW)  
Project Learning Tree  
Pueblo District 60  
Red Rocks Community College  
Roncalli Stem Academy  
Sand Creek Regional Greenway  
Partnership  
Secrest Elementary  
Silicon STEM Academy  
Singing Hills Preschool  
Southwest Colorado Education  
Collaborative  
STEM Jobs Magazine  
STEM Lab  
STEM Launch  
STEM Outreach, Pre-Collegiate  
Success and Support Center  
STEM School Highlands Ranch  
Thompson R2J School District  
TinkerMill, The Longmont  
Makerspace  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Colorado Colorado  
Springs  
University of Northern Colorado  
US Drone Soccer  
Vikan Middle School  
Well Works  
Wild Rose Education





## Potential Members<sup>1</sup>

Adams State University  
Aims Community College  
Arapahoe Community College  
Arvada Chamber of Commerce  
Aspen Center for  
Environmental Studies  
Ball Aerospace  
Boys and Girls Clubs  
Cal-Wood Education Center  
Career Education Center  
Children's Museum of Denver  
Colorado Association of Science  
Teachers (CAST)  
Colorado Council of Teachers  
of Mathematics  
Colorado Environmental  
Film Festival  
Colorado Mesa University  
Colorado School of Mines  
Colorado State University  
Community College of Aurora  
Cool Science

CSU Construction  
Management  
CSU STEM Center  
CU Anschutz Medical School  
CU Office of Diversity, Equity  
& Community Engagement  
Denver Museum of Nature  
and Science  
Expeditionary Learning  
Foothills Parks and  
Recreation District  
Fort Lewis College  
Girl Scouts of Colorado  
Lockheed Martin  
Mobile Earth and Space  
Observatory  
NOCO CSP  
Noyce Programs  
Pikes Peak Business and  
Education Alliance  
Pikes Peak Community  
College

Project WILD  
Pueblo Community College  
PVSD  
Red Rocks Community College  
Scholars Unlimited  
Skinner Middle School  
Neighborhood Center  
Space Foundation  
St. Vrain Valley Schools  
Thorne Nature Experience  
Transportation and  
Construction Girl  
U.S. Department of Parks  
and Wildlife  
Weld RE-4  
Western Colorado University  
Xcel Energy  
YMCAs

<sup>1</sup> These are connections of Ecosystem members that were included on the Membership Form

## Ecosystem Members by Sector



- PreK-12 education (43.6%)
- Post-secondary/Higher education (23.1%)
- STEM programming provider (12.8%)
- Non-profit (8.5%)
- Business/Industry (5.1%)
- Government (3.4%)
- Other (3.4%)

# 75%

of Ecosystem Members  
**Completely Agree** that it is  
important for Colorado to have a  
statewide strategic STEM plan





# Digital Infrastructure

