



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



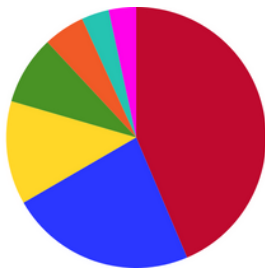


Potential Members¹

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Adams State University | CSU Construction Management | Project WILD |
| Aims Community College | CSU STEM Center | Pueblo Community College |
| Arapahoe Community College | CU Anschutz Medical School | PVSD |
| Arvada Chamber of Commerce | CU Office of Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement | Red Rocks Community College |
| Aspen Center for Environmental Studies | Denver Museum of Nature and Science | Scholars Unlimited |
| Ball Aerospace | Expeditionary Learning | Skinner Middle School Neighborhood Center |
| Boys and Girls Clubs | Foothills Parks and Recreation District | Space Foundation |
| Cal-Wood Education Center | Fort Lewis College | St. Vrain Valley Schools |
| Career Education Center | Girl Scouts of Colorado | Thorne Nature Experience |
| Children's Museum of Denver | Lockheed Martin | Transportation and Construction Girl |
| Colorado Association of Science Teachers (CAST) | Mobile Earth and Space Observatory | U.S. Department of Parks and Wildlife |
| Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics | NOCO CSP | Weld RE-4 |
| Colorado Environmental Film Festival | Noyce Programs | Western Colorado University |
| Colorado Mesa University | Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance | Xcel Energy |
| Colorado School of Mines | Pikes Peak Community College | YMCAs |
| Colorado State University | | |
| Community College of Aurora | | |
| Cool Science | | |

¹ 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

