

**House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education
Battelle/Ohio STEM Learning Network – Proponent Testimony**

Letter of Support from OSLN Hub Partners

3/02/2021

Dear Chair Richardson, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the committee:

We are writing in support of Ohio investing \$1.5 million annually in the Ohio STEM Learning Network. As leaders of the Network's regional hubs, we believe that the network is crucial to providing access to high-quality STEM programs and resources for all students across the state. The Ohio STEM Learning Network hub model ensures that STEM educational opportunities are locally relevant, connected to local industries, and responsive to the needs found across every unique region of our great state.

In 2020, the Ohio STEM Learning Network reached 63,000 students via 573 Ohio teachers and STEM programs. The network hubs provide professional development for teachers and administrators, community engagement activities for students and families, and technical assistance for schools seeking STEM designation through the Ohio Department of Education.

Each of the seven network hubs are different, but we all have the shared vision and work together to foster a culture of STEM learning statewide. Our professional development programs ensure that schools have the training needed to provide innovative, personalized, and STEM career-connected opportunities for students. We support schools and teachers as they implement best practices in STEM education: problem-based learning, design thinking, community partnerships, and career exploration programs, while targeting underserved student populations.

The Ohio STEM Learning Network hubs are the connective tissue that make the network relevant across the entire state, but hubs need more support. We are local implementation partners, working to raise funds locally, binding together local partners in support of schools, and leading the collective charge to increase the access to and quality of STEM education for all Ohio students. This funding will ensure that we can offer stronger support to each hub and reach even more students to maximize our coordinated impact.

We commend Governor DeWine for adding this investment to STEM education into the current budget proposal and urge you to support expanding quality, impactful STEM education for all Ohio students.

Thank you.

(Signatures, pg. 2,3)

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