



Elementary STEM FAQs

Why should I consider a STEM program for my child?

If your child values hands-on instruction and working together with classmates, then STEM might be a good fit. STEM students work through interdisciplinary projects to create solutions to real-life problems. STEM students are often self-driven and value inquiry and innovation. STEM students typically learn by doing and apply the curriculum through problem-solving.

What will be the same as my neighborhood school?

The curriculum is the same across NC. Students at all public schools in NC learn the same standards. State testing requirements are the same. Report cards are the same across the entire CCS district. Students still take the same local and state formative and summative assessments.

What is different from my neighborhood school?

Teacher delivery of material is the biggest difference in a STEM school. Students engage in project and problem-based learning that requires them to apply their knowledge to create solutions to real-world problems posed by the teacher. Students are often given choices in how they will learn the standards and how they will present their learning. STEM students use an engineering design cycle to solve problems and guide their inquiry. They often use robotics and coding to solve problems.

Are services provided for EC, ESL and AIG students at STEM schools?

Yes, all services are provided at every CCS school in order to meet the unique learning needs of students.

Is transportation provided from my home?

Students living within the transportation boundary are eligible for traditional busing within neighborhoods. Students living outside the transportation boundary can utilize our hub

stops. Hub stops are scheduled yearly and based on need. You may see the current stops offered on the program choice page on the CCS website.

Is KidsPlus provided at STEM schools?

KidsPlus offers before and/or afterschool care for children. Please check the KidsPlus website to determine if your assigned STEM school offers KidsPlus.

How is reading instruction at STEM schools?

Reading instruction is vital in all schools. STEM schools use the same curriculum and instructional strategies as all other schools in CCS to teach students to read. Reading is not valued less in a STEM school. Students may read about more topics related to STEM fields and practices.

What additional opportunities might be provided at a STEM school?

Our STEM schools create opportunities for STEM students to connect with professionals in STEM careers. We host frequent guest speakers and provide additional field trip opportunities at the middle and high school levels. In addition, our STEM schools provide specially designed learning spaces that include labs and areas for students to create and innovate.

STEM schools often offer more extracurricular opportunities related to STEM subjects.

These may include:

- Science Olympiad
- Robotics clubs/competitions
- Coding Clubs
- Science Fair
- Career Exploration activities/events
- National Youth Science Day
- Summer STEM camp
- Engineering Design competitions

How does STEM benefit my child beyond the elementary years?

By the time students reach high school, they must demonstrate academic proficiency to remain in STEM. High school STEM students can choose a more or less rigorous STEM pathway customized to their interests and future endeavors. To learn more about STEM requirements in high school and for graduation visit our CCS website.

How are students selected for a STEM school at the elementary level?

Students must be residents of the Cabarrus County School district. Students must submit an online application by the deadline. If there are more applicants than spaces available, students will be selected by lottery or offered a seat in another STEM elementary school.

What do I do next?

You may choose to attend the School Choice Open House for elementary STEM schools. You will have an opportunity to hear from our district STEM coaches and ask specific school-level questions to be answered by administrators. Complete your school choice application. You can find additional information regarding Program Choice by visiting the [CCS Program Choice Webpage](#).