



APPLICANT INFORMATION

The Governor's School STEM Awards recognise and celebrate Western Australian schools that demonstrate excellence in leadership, advocacy, engagement and achievements in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

The Awards encourage high quality outcomes and approaches in **STEM subjects** as well as in the way STEM teaching is **integrated** across the learning areas. The evaluation process seeks evidence of a strong record of **leadership** including in the school community and with other schools; STEM education programs being delivered across different teaching areas; and a clear vision for furthering STEM in the curriculum.

The Awards seek to encourage the best practice in STEM education across Western Australia. Principals and leadership teams will be recognised for their support and leadership in developing their schools' STEM education programs in 2020.

Schools are encouraged to continue practising leadership in STEM education and to be active in the field by mentoring other schools in their communities.

Prizes

Winners and runners-up will be recognised in two categories: primary schools and secondary schools. The primary and secondary judging panels will each select a winner and runner-up school to be announced by the Governor at a presentation ceremony in November.

The recipients of the **Leadership Excellence Award** (winner) will receive:

- \$2,000 for their STEM programs;
- an invitation to visit Government House including house tour and refreshments; and
- a Scitech visit for up to 90 students (metro schools) or eight weeks of free rental & delivery of a DIY Science Kit (metro and regional), providing a term's worth of science lessons.

The recipients of the **Meritorious Leadership Award** (runner-up) will receive:

- \$1,000 for their STEM programs;
- an invitation to visit Government House including house tour and refreshments; and
- a Scitech visit for up to 90 students (metro schools) or eight weeks of free rental & delivery of a DIY Science Kit (metro and regional).

All finalists will enjoy a Scitech visit for up to 60 students (metro) or a DIY Science Kit (metro and regional).



Eligibility

Participation is open to all Western Australian primary and secondary schools from the public and private sectors. Composite schools may participate in the primary and/or secondary award category and must complete a separate application for each.

Past award recipients are encouraged to compete in future years. Schools who win the Award for Leadership Excellence three times are admitted to the Governor's School STEM Hall of Fame.

Selection process

1

Submit application form with statements against evaluation criteria

Step One

Schools complete the Application Form including providing contact details and submitting statements against the Awards' Evaluation Criteria. **Applications open on 22 June and close 3 August 2020.**

2

Additional evidence

Step Two

Additional supporting evidence may be obtained from external organisations about schools' participation in STEM education activities. Some participation and achievement data may also be obtained from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

3

Selection of finalist schools

Step Three

The primary and secondary school judging panels will produce a short-list of finalist schools to be announced in September.

4

School visits

Step Four

Each finalist school will be visited by the judging panel. Judges will meet with each principal and members of their leadership team, staff and students to determine the winners based on the evaluation criteria.

5

Winners announcement

Step Five

The winner and runner-up primary and secondary schools will be announced by the Governor at a presentation ceremony at Government House in Term 4.

Principles underpinning the selection process

- High quality school leadership will encourage, nurture and celebrate STEM initiatives in schools.
- High quality teaching within and across each of the STEM subjects is critical to high levels of student engagement and high quality student STEM outcomes.
- High quality STEM learning is evident in schools when students are inspired to participate and achieve their best in STEM learning.

Evaluation criteria

The judging panel will assess statements against the following evaluation criteria:

Evidence of school leadership in STEM

- Has implemented a vision for learning that sees all students and STEM teachers engaged in and enthused about STEM learning and the potential future opportunities this will bring.
- Understands why STEM education is important to the future of individuals and the nation as a whole.
- Ensures resources are allocated to STEM education within the school.
- Uses qualitative and quantitative data in planning and evaluating STEM learning.

Evidence of quality STEM teaching

- Evidence of STEM teaching across all year levels and in inquiry methods/experiments
- Evidence of staff participation in professional learning (external or within the school).
- Evidence of collaboration and co-ordination between all teachers in optimising STEM at the school and with STEM partners externally.
- Evidence of support for student engagement in internal and external STEM activities, particularly those where students demonstrate innovation, collaboration and pursuit of their own ideas.
- Evidence of STEM teaching across a broad range of topics, for example, physical and biological sciences, mathematics and digital technologies.

Evidence of student engagement and outcomes

- Evidence of participation in a variety of activities across the student body to cater for different students' interests and abilities.
- Evidence that STEM activities have impacted positively on student engagement, participation and learning.
- Evidence of STEM teaching and learning for all students.

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