Performance Standards

for STEM Providers

STEM Provider Certification

What it means

The Cognia STEM Provider Certification process is designed for providers committed to high quality STEM programming. A provider is defined as an organization that provides resources, services, and support for STEM education, such as an education agency (e.g., state, province, nation, country), non-profit organization, or a vendor that delivers services, resources, and/or curriculum to schools, students in grades preK–12, and postsecondary, and/or teachers.

STEM education engages learners in inquiry processes that promote deep thinking in social learning contexts, with clear connections to outcomes associated with success at progressive levels of learning and work. Cognia's STEM Provider Certification Standards provide a set of evaluative criteria that form the foundational elements of a high-quality STEM education program offered by a STEM Provider and contain concepts that serve as a roadmap for implementing high-quality STEM practices and processes. Additionally, the STEM certification process allows Cognia Evaluators to assess an institution's STEM implementation and provide feedback that validates current practices and informs opportunities for continued improvement.

Pursuant to Cognia Accreditation and Certification Policies and Procedures, Policy 2.1.c, Accreditation is a requirement for certification. An institution must earn certification concurrently with accreditation. The appropriate set of standards are the Cognia Performance Standards for Education Service Organizations.

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STEM Provider Standards

STANDARD 1
The provider supports increased learning experiences that integrate all STEM disciplines with an emphasis on processes and practices associated with STEM.

STANDARD 2
The provider develops high-quality STEM curriculum aligned to recognized standards and organized into interdisciplinary frameworks.

STANDARD 3
The provider facilitates collaboration among content experts, developers, and/or staff to create and improve integrated STEM content.

STANDARD 4
The provider offers training and professional learning to enable staff members to be effective facilitators of self-directed STEM learning.

STANDARD 5
Learners collaborate and demonstrate independence in an inquiry-based learning environment that encourages creative solutions to authentic and complex problems.

STANDARD 6
Learners benefit from STEM programming that emphasizes building the knowledge and skills needed for success in advanced STEM education and careers.

STANDARD 7
The provider engages with clients and stakeholders to develop and evaluate the STEM programs and services.

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