



Date: September 21, 2026
To: East Aurora School District 131 Board of Education
From: Ami Engel, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, Language, & Assessment
Subject: STEM Ignition Program Continuation

BACKGROUND

East Aurora School District 131 has partnered with the Wong Center for Education to provide engaging, hands-on STEM learning experiences for students across the district through the STEM Ignition Program. The program is fully managed and implemented by the Wong Center team and provides programming throughout the school year, with limited summer programming opportunities as well. During the 2025–2026 school year, STEM Ignition reached 370 students across 17 sites, with an additional 105 students reached across three sites during Summer School.

SUMMARY

We are seeking a continued partnership with the Wong Center for Education to provide programming across all thirteen D131 elementary schools and all four middle schools, ensuring students throughout the district have access to consistent, high-quality STEM experiences.

Last year, all program goal benchmarks were met, including goals related to student interest and enjoyment of STEM, STEM identity, peer and adult relationships, perseverance, and critical thinking. The 2025–2026 program also supported three World Robot Olympiad teams, all of which earned opportunities to compete at the international level.

D131 will continue to support the partnership through a combination of in-kind contributions, including snacks, and a modest financial contribution that demonstrates the district's continued commitment to providing STEM opportunities for students. The Wong Center will continue to be responsible for managing and delivering the programming.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The district's financial commitment for the continuation of the partnership will be \$50,000, which will support the continuation of these student experiences. The district will also provide agreed-upon in-kind support, including snacks, to help sustain programming across all sites.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the continuation of the District 131 partnership to provide STEM Ignition through the Wong Center for Education for the 2026–2027 school year at a cost of \$50,000 from Title IV.