



Discussion Item

Date: May 4, 2026

Division: Learning & Teaching and Assessment

Subject: STEM Program Evaluation

Background Information:

- The LISD STEM Academy program opened in 2018 at Donald Elementary. By 2024, the program had expanded to include one elementary STEM academy and one middle school STEM academy in each of the 5 high school feeder patterns (10 total STEM Academy campuses)
- The purpose of the STEM Academy program is to increase exposure in the elementary and middle grades to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics knowledge and skills while providing a real-world, project-based curriculum that engages students with STEM content.
- The LISD STEM Academy expands school choice options within LISD to retain and attract students.
- The LISD communications department prepares and distributes marketing materials annually to advertise information sessions for families wishing to join the LISD STEM Academy program on a transfer.

Administrative Consideration:

- Members of the Learning & Teaching Department have worked with the Assessment & Accountability Department in order to evaluate performance and progress for the purpose of conducting a program evaluation.
- Approximately 6,832 students are enrolled in the STEM Academy Program in grades K-8 for the 2025-26 school year.
- STEM Academy campuses have been recognized by the National Institute of STEM Education for the high standards of STEM education promoted across the campuses.
- Parents and students have consistently reported positive experiences and growth in critical thinking skills at both the elementary and secondary level.