



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

*Advanced Project Lead the Way
Courses*

1. Purpose:

This funding is intended to increase student access to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning and career fields through the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) curriculum which is to; aid the growth and integration of specialized courses in STEM; advance the skills for industry employment; and develop access to and awareness of the opportunities for technical education. Funding of this grant supports high schools in providing additional courses in specialized/advanced PLTW STEM education.

2. Description of services provided:

Grant funding is provided to high schools to support the addition of advanced PLTW coursework, including start-up costs associated with the new course. The advanced course must have been offered to students by the beginning of the 2021–22 school year

3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:

To be eligible for funding, a high school must have offered a foundational PLTW course during the previous school year, expanding course offerings to include an advanced PLTW course in the current school year.

Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

Number of School Districts:	4
Number of Schools:	5
Number of Students:	0
Number of Educators:	0
Other:	N/A

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No



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5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$250,000	\$125,000
2022	\$250,000	\$125,000
2021	\$250,000	\$235,908
2020	\$250,000	\$250,000
2019	\$250,000	\$249,106

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
2023	5
2022	5
2021	12
2020	10

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

Project Lead The Way has added additional advanced coursework options since this proviso was originally funded, which has provided increased opportunity for high schools to provide coursework in three primary areas: Biomedical Science, Engineering, and Computer Science.

8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

Five of the five completed applicants were offered funding, to support the high school adoption and implementation of advanced courses such as Biomedical Innovation, Principles of Engineering, Advanced Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, and Cybersecurity. Grantees were able to access the PLTW website to adopt learning and training materials associated with the funded advanced PLTW course. Additionally, PLTW professional development was offered remotely to teachers. Two applicants ultimately were unable to offer an advanced PLTW course and were unable to be funded due to grant requirements outlined.

Between the two-month period that the application was open a limited number of submissions (5) were received. Funds were distributed equitably to all applicants without using the total funding amount. Applicant numbers may have been low due to the requirement of offering a Foundational PLTW course during the 2021–22 school year.



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9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Districts have expressed the desire to access funding so that they may build a PLTW pathway with both foundational and advanced coursework concurrently. Currently, the proviso language prohibits accessing funding support until the foundational course has been offered for at least a year. Students enrolled in the grant-funded class will complete the Project Lead the Way End-Of-Course Assessment, districts have had issues accomplishing this. Additionally, districts have expressed that the cost of program implementation and sustainability, access, and limited programs offered by PLTW often inhibit the growth or availability of these courses to students.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Despite current legislative language, it may be advantageous for some schools to implement a foundational course and advanced course concurrently. With the addition of remote professional development opportunities and an expanded timeline for accessing associated professional development, districts may experience greater support in program adoption and implementation. This may result in an increased demand for grant support.

11. **Statutory and/or budget language:**

\$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 are provided solely for advanced project lead the way courses at ten high schools. To be eligible for funding in 2022, a high school must have offered a foundational project lead the way course during the 2020-21 school year. The 2022 funding must be used for one-time start-up course costs for an advanced project lead the way course, to be offered to students beginning in the 2021-22 school year. To be eligible for funding in 2023, a high school must have offered a foundational project lead the way course during the 2021-22 school year. The 2023 funding must be used for one-time start-up course costs for an advanced project lead the way course, to be offered to students beginning in the 2022-23 school year. The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the education research and data center at the office of financial management shall track student participation and long-term outcome data. The office may require the recipient of these funds to report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

12. **Other relevant information:**

N/A

13. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

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