



National Institute of
General Medical Sciences

NIH Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) Program

What Is the SEPA Program?

SEPA supports educational activities for pre-kindergarten to grade 12 (P-12) to ensure that students and teachers from all communities and regions of the country have the opportunity to pursue studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Application Information

Eligible institutions include colleges, universities, institutes, museums, and professional societies. More than one SEPA application per due date may be submitted as long as each is scientifically distinct and doesn't scientifically overlap an active SEPA award.

A program director/principal investigator with an active SEPA award may submit another SEPA application if the proposed project is distinct from the active one. Refer to full eligibility details in section III of [PAR-23-137](#).

SEPA Topics and Audiences

SEPA focuses on two key STEM areas:
1) classroom-based projects for P-12 students and teachers, and 2) informal science education (ISE) projects conducted in external venues such as science centers, museums, and libraries. Projects that support quantitative and computational skills development are strongly encouraged.

Examples of SEPA-funded projects include:

- ▶ **Increasing access to chemistry for high schoolers with blindness: a program to jump start Central Texas** at Baylor University
- ▶ **Interactive family learning in support of early brain development** at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

SEPA projects may focus on one or more of these activities:

- ▶ Courses for skills development
- ▶ Research experiences
- ▶ Mentoring activities
- ▶ Curriculum or methods development
- ▶ Outreach

Application Cycle and Funding

- ▶ SEPA is reviewed by a panel of P-12 STEM and ISE experts.
- ▶ Peer review is in October/November, and NIGMS Council review is in January; award announcements are May through August.
- ▶ SEPA budgets are up to \$250,000 plus 8% facilities and administrative costs per year for a maximum of 5 years.
- ▶ Next application receipt dates are June 7, 2024, and June 6, 2025.
- ▶ Refer to [PAR-23-137](#) for details.

Questions? Contact Dr. Tony Beck (beckl@mail.nih.gov) or Dr. Yang Zhou (yang.zhou@nih.gov).

Visit the **SEPA Website** to learn more about the program and access the pre-application webinar.

