



# Believe in Ohio – FAQ

## Teacher Frequently Asked Questions

### *STEM Advocates Answer Your Questions*

Updated September 7, 2021

1. **How can the *Believe in Ohio* program help teachers provide meaningful instruction to their students during these challenging times?**

A: Last year, the *Believe in Ohio* program was updated with additional resources made available for both teachers and students to allow the program to be successfully implemented in either a normal classroom setting, or in either a virtual/online class or blended education setting. Teachers who are looking for a program that can provide their students with meaningful instruction should consider implementing the *Believe in Ohio* program.

2. **How can the *Believe in Ohio* program fit into my existing curriculum?**

A: The *Believe in Ohio* program ties closely to the Ohio Department of Education Science standards, as well as national business education standards. *Believe in Ohio's* STEM Advocates are always willing to discuss with teachers how the *Believe in Ohio* program can work for them and their students.

3. **What are the advantages for students?**

A: The *Believe in Ohio* program challenges students to imagine themselves in a STEM / Innovation career and apply what they are learning in their classes. It engages students in deeper sustained inquiry, reflection and revision. It empowers students in self-initiated learning, encouraging student voice and choice. It provides them with an opportunity to compete for Ohio college scholarships.

4. **What are some reasons that teachers use *Believe in Ohio* in their classrooms?**

A: If you ask teachers who have been participating, you will hear a variety of answers, but typically a teacher will tell you that *Believe in Ohio* provides the opportunity for students to engage fully in their own learning, to compete with student peers, and when it is over, have a completely different view of themselves. Teachers state that it gives them the ability to connect their classrooms to the real world.

5. **What resources does *Believe in Ohio* provide?**

A: The *Believe in Ohio* program provides an extensive array of [teacher resources](#) that help teachers implement the program, and [student resources](#) that help students develop their STEM Plans.

6. **How do I get started?**

A: Click on this link to request [Believe in Ohio](#) to contact you, or [contact your regional STEM Advocate directly](#), and your regional STEM Advocate will then reach out to help you get started.

7. **How much time do I need to dedicate to *Believe in Ohio*?**

A: It varies and is flexible. Teachers determine the best fit in their circumstances. But on average, 10-20 in-person or virtual class periods overall including the introduction to the *Believe in Ohio* mileposts, ongoing conferring with students as they work through the mileposts and the local competition.

8. **Is there a timeline available that can help me understand how the program works?**

A: Yes, [click here to view the timeline](#). Your STEM Advocate can answer questions about it.

**9. How much does this cost?**

A: There is no cost to participate in *Believe in Ohio*. On the contrary, participating teachers may qualify to receive a \$300 to \$500 *Teacher Support Grant* that the teacher may use for program supplies and miscellaneous costs, and professional time and costs. *Believe in Ohio* provides for free all of the needed curriculum as well as a comprehensive array of teacher and student program support materials.

**10. How can the community get involved?**

A: Teachers should consider seeking the support of their school community in areas that may be beyond their own expertise, e.g. by seeking the support of ELA teachers in the writing process, teachers in various science disciplines, and for judging student plans. Teachers can also involve their local community by soliciting expertise from parents, local businesses and entrepreneurs, and for judging student plans.

**11. Who should/can we ask to be judges for the local competition?**

A: Teachers can ask other teachers and educators to judge student plans. Teachers can also involve the *local* community by asking their local Chamber of Commerce, STEM professionals and entrepreneurs to judge students' plans. All judges use the same *Believe in Ohio's* standardized judging rubrics.

**12. What is the deadline to finish the local competition during the school year 2021-2022?**

A: Local competition deadlines depend on whether a teacher wishes for their students to be eligible to potentially participate in a Qualifying Competition in February 2022, or after the end of the school year, in mid-June 2022. Please refer to [Believe in Ohio's School Year 2021-2022 Activity Timeline for Teachers](#) for more information, which your STEM Advocate would be happy to discuss with you.

**13. What different ways can *Believe in Ohio* be incorporated into the curriculum in a school?** A: *Believe in Ohio* can be used as an assignment, a framework, or an activity in STEM or business, entrepreneurship or economics classes, school clubs, interdisciplinary teaching groups, intervention/enrichment initiatives, and as a senior capstone project.

**14. Can the problem statement or market opportunity that the student addresses be anything the student wants to do, or can it be based on or required to include content from my class?**

A: *Believe in Ohio* can inspire students to think about STEM/Innovation careers that may interest them. So, allowing students to frame their own problems and define their own solutions is empowering and self-motivating. However, teachers do have control at their local level to inspire students to search for problems to solve within any area of science or business.

**15. How are the local high school and middle school competition awards provided to students?**

A: High school student awardees will receive a certificate and award check directly from the Ohio Academy of Science. Middle school student awardees will receive their \$25 Gift Card Awards from their teachers.