



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-149

Proposal Title: ESTEP 2.0: Earth Science Teacher Education Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Lee Schmitt

Organization: Minnesota Science Teachers Association

Office Telephone: () -

Email: lee.m.schmitt@gmail.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Earth Science Teacher Education Project (ESTEP) will provide statewide professional development for Minnesota science teachers in Environmental and Earth Science content and pedagogy to strengthen environmental education in schools.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$643,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2027

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

With adoption of the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science, all 6th grade teachers in Minnesota are required to teach earth/environmental science using a new phenomenon-based approach to instruction. Sixth-grade teachers are being asked to teach science subject matter in which most have little or no background. In addition, all Minnesota high schools will need to develop and implement earth/environmental science courses to meet the new earth science graduation requirement. These high school teachers of science, especially in rural districts, need accessible, affordable graduate-level earth/environmental science courses to procure a 9-12 Earth and Space Science teaching license.

All the quality work and successes of LCCMR-funded programs will have little longevity if we do not develop and maintain a citizenry educated in the richness, value and fragility of Minnesota's natural resources. Now is the time to continue and complete our successful statewide initiative to prioritize and strengthen earth/environmental education in our schools. Environmental education in Minnesota is being stimulated and rejuvenated through ESTEP programs by providing teachers with quality earth/environmental science training while supporting implementation of the new 2019 science standards.

ESTEP 2.0 seeks funding to complete its goal to enhance earth/environmental education in

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The urgent need for statewide professional development in Earth and Environmental Sciences for Minnesota teachers is being met through our currently-funded ESTEP grant (2022-169). To date, MnSTA, through the ESTEP project, has served 342 Minnesota teachers from throughout the state by delivering six, in-person, high-quality, five-day summer institutes and 10 online courses. From now until the grant ends on June 30, 2025, ESTEP will provide four more five-day institutes and six more online courses for as many as 680 additional teachers, i.e. serving over 1000 teachers statewide. (See ESTEP 2023 Pre-Post Data Analysis in Attachments for ESTEP's impact on teachers and environmental education in Minnesota.)

This grant request for ESTEP 2.0 will fund an additional 12 institutes and 18 online courses through June 30, 2027. ESTEP 2.0 will also expand its program offerings to include 12 online Saturday Seminars and 16 Virtual Short Course Workshops to support the implementation of environmental themes into school curricula while supporting continued use of Minnesota natural resources as phenomena for investigation.

ESTEP has created a statewide emphasis in environment education in 6th grade and high school earth science classrooms across Minnesota. MnSTA seeks ENRTF funding to complete this mission.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

We cannot protect what we do not understand. Preserving Minnesota's natural resources cannot be accomplished without a fundamental knowledge of geology, hydrology and climate taught in our schools by informed, confident science educators.

To improve the quality of earth/environmental education, ESTEP will:

- 1) Increase teacher content knowledge in earth/environmental sciences with direct emphasis on Minnesota's water, air, land, minerals, and climate.
- 2) Increase teacher skills in designing and facilitating phenomenon-based instruction.
- 3) Increase curriculum time devoted to environmental science and student-directed investigations.

- 4) Increase teacher confidence and enthusiasm for teaching science.
- 5) Increase outdoor learning experiences for students.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Fulfillment of ESTEP Professional Development Summer Institutes, Online Courses, Seminars, Virtual Workshops and Online Repository

Activity Budget: \$635,000

Activity Description:

Objectives – ESTEP 2.0 will:

- 1) Deliver 12 high-quality, environmentally-focused summer professional development institutes for up to 160 high school and 150 sixth grade science teachers.
- 2) Provide a total of 18 fall, spring and summer online courses serving as many as 340 teachers.
- 3) Present 12 in-person Saturday Seminars at host schools engaging as many as 240 teachers.
- 4) Produce 16 Virtual Short Course Workshops on specific earth/environmental/teaching topics involving up to 384 teachers.
- 5) Lead a teacher committee charged with planning and producing a crucial online repository of teacher-developed and available online lessons and resources. (Note: this committee is not writing curriculum but collecting and organizing classroom-ready lessons and resources.)

Evaluation is addressed in Activity 2.

A total of 18 online courses will be offered between fall of 2025 and spring 2027. Online courses include Earth Essentials, Environmental and Earth Science Advanced Topics, Geoscience for Middle School Teachers, Meteorology, Astronomy, Teaching Environmental Topics in 3D, and Minnesota Rocks and Natural Resources. Each course can enroll up to 20 teachers, but some instructors can and do take more students.

ESTEP 2.0 will serve as many 1300 Minnesota teachers of science impacting an estimated 110,000 students.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Complete four high school and two 6th grade summer programs for up to 140 teachers.	August 31, 2025
Deliver four online courses serving as many as 80 teachers in fall 2025.	December 31, 2025
Deliver four online courses serving up to 80 teachers in spring 2026.	May 31, 2026
Complete four high school and three 6th grade summer programs for up to 170 teachers.	August 31, 2026
Deliver one summer online course serving 20 teachers.	August 31, 2026
Deliver four online courses serving up to 80 teachers in fall 2026.	December 31, 2026
Deliver four online courses serving 80 teachers in spring 2027.	May 31, 2027
Plan and present 12 Saturday Seminars at host schools serving as many as 240 teachers.	May 31, 2027
Plan and present 16 topic-specific Virtual Short Courses on Zoom serving up to 384 teachers.	May 31, 2027
Lead a 10-teacher team in evaluating teacher-written and online resources for a MnSTA Online Repository.	June 30, 2027

Activity 2: Evaluation and Reporting on ESTEP Impact on Environmental Education in Minnesota Schools

Activity Budget: \$8,000

Activity Description:

Objective: Collect data from ESTEP teacher participants to determine the effect of the ESTEP program on their teaching

and the integration of Minnesota-related environmental topics into their curricula.

The attitudinal instrument used was developed in advance of ESTEP funding and at our own risk using non-ENTRF funds from MnSTA planning grants and complies with ENTRF funding requirements.

Teacher Tests: Standards-based evaluative instruments have been developed to gauge teacher learning of earth/environmental concepts. These content tests vary depending on the field work location and topics addressed. Pre/post institute score analysis will determine the percent in knowledge gains.

Teacher Surveys: This is a project-specific, Likert-type instrument designed to assess changes in attitude and classroom practice. Surveys are completed by teachers online pre-program and again, eight months later, in mid-school year. Items are compared pre versus post to determine percent changes in responses related to confidence in teaching earth science/environmental topics and amount of instructional time devoted to environmental and phenomenon-based teaching. (See ESTEP 2023 Pre-Post Data Analysis in Attachments.)

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Administer online survey instrument to teachers registered for summer 2025 institutes.	July 31, 2025
Administer pre/post teacher content tests at 2025 summer institutes.	July 31, 2025
Administer online survey instrument again to teachers after one-half year of teaching post-ESTEP training.	January 31, 2026
Analyze/report findings on teacher achievement and classroom advances in Minnesota earth/environmental education.	February 28, 2026
Administer online survey instrument to teachers registered for summer 2026 institutes.	May 31, 2026
Administer online survey instrument again to teachers after one-half year of teaching post-ESTEP training.	February 28, 2027
Analyze/report findings on teacher achievement and classroom advances in Minnesota earth/environmental education.	February 28, 2027

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dr. Russell Colson, Professor of Geology	Minnesota State University, Moorhead	Dr. Colson will serve as lead instructor for high school science teachers seeking additional licensure in 9-12 Earth/Environmental Science. Colson will lead two, 5-day high school institutes at MSU-Moorhead, one 6th grade institute, and instruct four online courses over the final two years of the project.	Yes
Dr. Bryce Hoppie, P.G. (Mn), Professor of Geology	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Dr. Hoppie will be the lead earth/environmental science instructor for two, 5-day, regional 6th grade science teacher summer institutes, lead three 5-day high school institutes in locations around the state, and teach three ESTEP online courses.	Yes
Dr. Kate S. Pound, Professor of Geology	Gustavas Adolphus College	Dr. Pound will be the lead earth/environmental science instructor for two 6th grade science teacher summer institutes and teach two ESTEP online courses.	Yes
Dr. Jennifer L.B. Anderson, Professor of Geoscience	Winona State University	Dr. Anderson will serve as lead instructor for two high school summer institutes hosted at MSU-Winona.	Yes
Dr. Hillary A. Barron, Research Associate	MSU-Bemidji	Dr. Barron will be a guest presenter for Saturday Seminars on the topics of teaching toward equity in science/environmental education and Native American perspectives on science and the environment.	Yes
Dr. Rachel Humphrey, Professor	St. Cloud State University	Dr. Humphrey will lead and host one high school summer institute at St. Cloud State and instruct two online Meteorology courses for teachers.	Yes
Larry Mascotti, Community Faculty	Metropolitan State University	Mr. Masotti will instruct two online Astronomy courses for teachers over the final two years of the project.	Yes
Kate Rosok, MESTA President	Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA)	MESTA - a statewide organization serving Minnesota earth science teachers - will provide help with statewide coordination, identify regional field sites, and provide teaching resources and networking for ESTEP participants. MESTA receives no funding from ESTEP.	No

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The result of ESTEP to date is a statewide cohort of science teachers who have participated in ESTEP programs and are now more confident in their content understanding and pedagogical skills in addressing the new Earth/Environmental Science standards. Data show the implementation of a more vibrant, environmentally- and Minnesota-focused approach to teaching science is underway in Minnesota classrooms. (See ESTEP 2023 Pre-Post Data Analysis in Attachments.)

Resources and strategies will continue to be distributed statewide through MnSTA conferences, website and online repository of resources. All expenses in maintaining communication and sharing of resources post-ESTEP will be funded by MnSTA.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
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ESTEP: Earth Science Teacher Education Project	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05f	\$495,000
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Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Lee Schmitt

Job Title: ESTEP Coordinator

Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Lee Schmitt served as Associate Director for Professional Development and faculty in the Hamline University School of Education. His work involved developing and implementing large-scale programs for Minnesota teachers of science in the areas of science content, licensure, environmental education, practice-based instruction, and STEM education. Schmitt designed and managed statewide teacher programs in geology, biotechnology, chemistry/physics, drinking water, and three regional Science Academies funded by the state Math Science Partnership (MSP). Schmitt was project director for the nationally-recognized, \$2.3 million, Minnesota Science Teachers Education Project (MnSTEP) serving nearly 1000 K-12 teachers of science throughout Minnesota. He has served as president of the Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA) and Minnesota Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA), and was Co-PI/lead writer for Science and Engineering Practices in Action (SEPA) – a series of online professional development modules for K-12 teachers of science funded by a state MSP grant. Over his 22 years in teacher education, Schmitt has managed over 30 large-scale professional development projects serving thousands of Minnesota science teachers.

In writing a 2022 LCCMR proposal for MnSTA, "ESTEP: Earth Science Teacher Education Project" (2022-169) received ENTRF funding and is currently providing quality, statewide professional development for teachers in earth and environmental science. This new proposal, "ESTEP 2.0", is requesting two more years of funding to continue, complete our work, and reach as many Minnesota science teachers as possible thereby infusing the understanding, appreciation and protection of Minnesota’s natural resources into the science curricula of schools throughout the state.

Organization: Minnesota Science Teachers Association

Organization Description:

The Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA) is a statewide, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the quality of science and environmental education for ALL Minnesota students by providing K-16 science educators a platform for the exchange of ideas and materials, current research in science and environmental education, a statewide leadership and communication network, and needed professional development in all science disciplines. Established in 1964, MnSTA is governed by a 32-member board of directors representing all science disciplines, 11 regions of the state, universities and colleges, urban and rural districts, and public/private schools, as well as informal and alternative science education. MnSTA has led, partnered and/or contributed to numerous, statewide professional development programs for Minnesota teachers of science.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Dr. Russell Colson	Sub award	Dr. Colson will lead instruction for two, 5-day high school institutes and one, 1.5 day 6th grade institute totaling 11.5 days of instruction at \$1000/day, plus instruct four online courses at \$5000 per course (Normal reimbursement would be \$9348.), plus 70 hours planning time at \$30/hr.				0.96		\$33,600
Dr. Bryce Hoppie	Sub award	Dr. Hoppie will lead instruction for two, 1.5 day 6th grade institutes and three, 5-day high school institutes totaling 18 days plus teach three online courses at \$5000 each, plus 70 hours planning time at \$30/hr. The \$1000/day stipend for PhD instructors is based on NSF guidelines.				1		\$35,100
Dr. Kate Pound	Sub award	Dr. Pound will lead instruction for two 1.5 day, 6th grade teacher summer institutes at \$1000/day, instruct two online courses at \$5000 each, and up to 70 hours of planning time at \$30/hr. The \$1000/day stipend for PhD instructors is based on previous NSF rates.				0.44		\$15,100
Dr. Rachel Humphrey	Sub award	Dr. Humphrey will instruct two online courses in Meteorology at \$5000 each, serve as lead instructor for one 5-day high school institute at \$1000/day, plus 70 hours planning time. \$5000 rate per online course is based on 50% of the standard university rate for teaching a three-credit online course.				0.48		\$17,100
Larry Mascotti	Sub award	Mr. Mascotti will instruct two online courses in Astronomy over the two years of the grant. The instructor rate of \$5000 per online course is based on 50% of the standard university rate for teaching a three-credit online graduate course.				0.36		\$10,000
Dr. Jennifer Anderson	Sub award	Dr. Anderson will serve as lead instructor for two 5-day high school institutes at \$1000/day and receive up to 70 hours of planning time at \$30/hr. The \$1000				0.34		\$12,100

		daily rate is based on NSF grant guidelines for PhD instructors and includes personal expenses.						
Dr. Hillary Barron	Sub award	Dr. Barron will lead two virtual half-day workshops at \$500 each. She will also guest present on achieving equity in science/environmental education and Native American perspectives in four Saturday Seminars at \$400 each.				0.06		\$2,600
Dana Smith	Sub award	Ms. Smith will co-instruct in all five 6th grade institutes totaling 7 days and co-instruct three high school programs for 15 days at \$750/day; lead 12 Saturday Seminars at \$300; co-instruct for three online courses (39 hours), and 250 hours per year for project coordination at \$30/hr.				1.4		\$38,370
Marlene Schoeneck	Sub award	Ms. Schoeneck will co-instruct in all five 6th grade institutes focusing on environmental education and pedagogy totaling 6 days at \$750/day; teach four online courses at \$5000 each; lead the online repository work group at \$5000; and receive up to 70 hours planning time at \$30/hr.				1.26		\$34,600
Mary Ann Colson	Sub award	Ms. Colson will co-instruct one 6th grade institute and two 5-day high school programs totaling 11.5 days at \$750/day, co-instruct for three online courses at 50% of \$5000, and receive up to 70 hours of planning time at \$30/hour.				0.66		\$18,225
John Olson	Sub award	Mr. Olson, MnSTA Treasurer, will manage the ESTEP 2.0 budget and be responsible for all budget-related transactions. \$4000 per year is based on an estimated 200 hours per year at \$20/hour.				0.26		\$8,000
Lee Schmitt	Sub award	Mr. Schmitt will manage ESTEP 2.0 project evaluation and reporting, co-teach three 6th grade institutes totaling three days at \$750/day, and receive up to 70 hours planning time at \$30/hr. \$4000 per year for evaluation and reporting is based on an estimated 200 hours per year.				0.5		\$12,350
MSU-Moorhead	Sub award	Course credit for teacher participants. Amount is based on 60% of total participants in summer (186 teachers) plus 100% of online participants (340 teachers) @\$165/credit x 3 credits (526 teachers x \$165/credit x 3 credits = \$260,370) \$165/credit is a negotiated fee from MSU-Moorhead (see justification).		X		0		\$260,370

Haley Kalina	Sub award	Ms. Kalina will co-instruct in all five 6th grade institutes focusing on pedagogy and standards implementation totaling 6 days at \$750/day plus 70 hours planning time at \$30/hr. The \$750/day stipend is based on NSF grant guidelines for non-PhD instructors and includes personal expenses.				0.34		\$9,600
Kate Rosok	Sub award	Ms. Rosok will co-instruct two high school summer institute totaling 10 days at \$750/day.				0.28		\$7,500
Melissa Olson	Sub award	Ms. Olson will co-instruct one high school summer institute for five days at \$750/day.				0.14		\$3,750
Eric Koser	Sub award	Mr. Koser will lead the technology component of developing the MnSTA ESTEP Online Repository. \$2000 stipend is based on 100 hours at \$20/hour.				0.08		\$2,000
Saturday Seminar Lead Teachers	Sub award	Saturday Seminar lead teachers, who will host and co-teach seminars at their schools, receive a \$300 stipend. (12 seminars x \$300 = \$3600)				0.14		\$3,600
Virtual Short Course Leaders	Sub award	Virtual Short Course lead teachers will receive a \$450 stipend which includes planning time. (16 online workshops x \$450 = \$7200)				0.26		\$7,200
Site Coordinators	Sub award	Site Coordinators are paid \$1000/week for organizing the 5-day summer institutes at their site. These teachers are responsible for finding teacher housing, attendance, gathering teaching materials, room set up, etc. (12 programs x \$1000 = \$12,000)				0.44		\$12,000
							Sub Total	\$543,165
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	General field/lab supplies TBD based on specific curricula in each region. Supply amount is based on 40% of the MSU- and NSF-recommended \$125/student for instructional supplies in a graduate-level science class.	Items for the 310 teachers enrolled in the 5-day summer institutes include notebooks, field lenses, geologic maps, testing chemicals, geo-scales, soil charts, plus tools and specific lab supplies TBD. These supplies are used for observation and investigation of Minnesota rocks, soils, water, habitats and mineral resources. Funds are not used to purchase classroom sets of materials.					\$15,235

							Sub Total	\$15,235
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
	Printing	Duplicating of handouts and maps. Printing amount is based on 310 participants x \$10 each.	Printouts will be needed for teachers to use in processing data, gaining insight into lesson design, and to highlight pertinent earth/environmental science content.					\$3,100
							Sub Total	\$3,100
Other Expenses								
		Stipends for Teacher Participants	Amount based on 40% of the 310 total participants in summer institutes (124 teachers) @\$80/day x 5 days; plus three repository sessions (10 teachers) @\$80/session x 3 sessions plus 5 hours work time @\$30 x 10 teachers; plus 12 Saturday Seminars (180 teachers) @\$50 plus 16 Short Courses (320 teachers) @\$50/course. Equation: (124 teachers x \$80 x 5 days + 10 teachers x \$80/day x 3 days + 5 hours x \$30/hr x	X				\$81,500

			10 teachers + 20 teachers x \$50/session x 12 sessions + 20 teachers x \$50/course x 16 courses = \$81,500) \$80/day for attending professional development is 45% of the average teacher stipend rate of \$180/day. The \$50 stipends are for shorter half-day workshops. Participants in online courses do not receive a stipend.					
							Sub Total	\$81,500
							Grand Total	\$643,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Contracts and Services - MSU-Moorhead	Sub award	Course credit for teacher participants. Amount is based on 60% of total participants in summer (186 teachers) plus 100% of online participants (340 teachers) @\$165/credit x 3 credits (526 teachers x \$165/credit x 3 credits = \$260,370) \$165/credit is a negotiated fee from MSU-Moorhead (see justification).	Educational professional development grants typically fund a teacher credit or stipend option. MSP, ITQ, 3M, Medtronic, and NSF grants all allow for payment of credits or stipend to teachers. Participation in ESTEP 2.0 requires a large commitment of time, and teachers deserve some form of compensation. MnSTA has negotiated with Minnesota State University, Moorhead to provide a "co-sponsored rate" for graduate credits at \$165 per credit. This pays for administration of the credit only (recording, posting grades, transcripts, etc.) and provides no "profit" or overhead for the university. MSU-Moorhead would normally charge \$535/credit, so \$165 is a real bargain. When soliciting universities, MSU-Moorhead was the lowest credit offer. Course credits will be consolidated and all payments for credits will be made exclusively to MSU-Moorhead. Note: calculation is based on full enrollment in all programs. This is unlikely. Credits for teachers were funded in the first ESTEP grant (2022-169).
Other Expenses		Stipends for Teacher Participants	Educational professional development grants typically fund a teacher credit or stipend option. MSP, ITQ, 3M, Medtronic, MDE and NSF grants all allow for payment of credits or stipend to teachers. Participation in ESTEP requires a large commitment of time, and teachers deserve some form of compensation. \$80/day for attending ESTEP 2.0 professional development is 45% of the average teacher daily stipend rate of \$180/day. Note: calculation is based on full enrollment in all programs. This is unlikely. Stipends were funded in the first ESTEP grant (2022-169).

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	Summer Instructor and Presenter Travel	Instructors' summer mileage for travel to and from summer institute locations will be waived. (200 miles/year x .67/mile x 14 instructors/presenters x 2 years = \$3752 in kind.)	Secured	\$3,752
In-Kind	Participant Travel to Field Sites	Program bus/van mileage to transport teachers to field sites will be replaced by using teacher vehicles. (4 vans/summer x 300 miles/day x 0.67/mile x 14 days = \$11,256 in kind.)	Secured	\$11,256
In-Kind	Lead Instructor Planning Mileage	Mileage for Drs. Colson, Hoppie, and Pound to visit and select field sites for investigation will be waived. (300 miles x .67/mile x 3 instructors x 2 years = \$1,206 in kind.)	Secured	\$1,206
In-Kind	Minnesota Universities and Schools	Rental fees for use of university facilities and school sites for summer institutes will be waived. (Estimated \$500/week x 12 weeks = \$6000 in program savings.)	Secured	\$6,000
In-Kind	Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA)	A one-year membership in MnSTA/MESTA will be provided in kind for summer teacher participants. (310 participants x \$25 = \$7750 in kind.)	Secured	\$7,750
In-Kind	Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA)	MnSTA website marketing, registration, and statewide online distribution of resources will be provided in kind. (\$800/year x 2 years = \$1600)	Secured	\$1,600
In-Kind	Minnesota Science Teachers Association (MnSTA)	The six-member ESTEP Lead Planning Team received two \$10,000 planning grants from MnSTA. These non-ENRTF funds were used for planning and preparing online courses, summer teacher institutes and evaluation instruments all matching grant initiatives and LCCMR guidelines.	Secured	\$20,000
In-Kind	Minnesota School Districts	Minnesota school districts are asked to reimburse teacher travel expenses to ESTEP summer institutes using their available ESSA funds. Room and board amount is based on 50% need for 6th grade teachers and 100% need for high school teachers staying in university dorms plus a \$107/day per diem. (235 teachers x \$125/week lodging + \$107/day per diem x 160 teachers x 5 days = \$114,975)	Potential	\$114,975
In-Kind	Minnesota School Districts	Districts pay a registration fee for their teachers to attend ESTEP. (\$200 x 160 high school + \$140 x 150 6th grade teachers = \$53000)	Potential	\$53,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$219,539
			Funds Total	\$219,539

Total Project Cost: \$862,539

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [10c1ea00-0b9.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The logo contains the letters ESTEP in an open format with graphics within each letter. The "E" contains a cross-section of a volcano, "S" contains an image of soil and rocks, "T" show a river system, "E" contains clouds and a tornado, and "P" a planet's surface with starry skies....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
MnSTA 990-EZ 2022	dfdfb3d3-2e7.pdf
MnSTA Certificate of Good Standing	5cc04186-faf.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
MnSTA Authorization Letter for ESTEP 2.0	968ba79c-919.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science	1ceb7244-b9c.pdf
6th & 9-12 Minnesota Environmental Benchmarks (Highlighted)	c765d36d-ed4.pdf
ESTEP 2023 Pre-Post Data Analysis	ace278b2-ce7.xlsx
ESTEP Teacher Testimonials	8da683ff-b69.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

From MnSTA: John Olson and Dana Smith

