



FAQ: Research Experience for Teachers (RET) 2023

Who is the Colorado BioScience Institute (The Institute)? Colorado BioScience Institute (The Institute) cultivates and diversifies the life sciences workforce in Colorado from classroom, to campus, to career. The Institute nurtures an early love of science with STEM education, engages students and teachers through hands-on experiences, and empowers employees with professional development. A 501(c)3 non-profit, The Institute was founded by the Colorado BioScience Association in 2015. <http://www.CoBioInstitute.org>.

Why Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program? The Institute seeks to provide teachers with practical knowledge and hands-on STEM company experience to enhance their content understanding and classroom practice, especially related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Who may apply for the Institute's RET program? In order to be eligible to apply to the Institute's Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program, you must meet these minimum requirements:

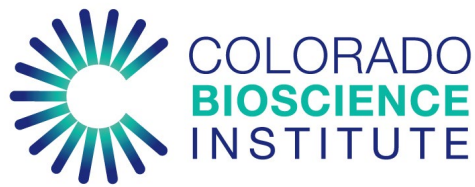
- Be **currently employed, full-time**, and employed in the same or similar capacity next year as a grade 6-12 science or CTE teacher within Jeffco School District. **Note:** We regret that we cannot accept applications from part-time, substitute, or pre-service teachers or teaching assistants.
- Be willing to make a 4-week summer commitment to the program, including 4 PD days (4 in the summer).
- Highly qualified science teacher (CO Teaching License. Completed 24 credit hours in undergraduate/graduate science, math or technology course work, CTE teachers also considered with district approval).
- Must complete one local presentation (CO Science Conference or other STEM related conference or school or district presentation during your commitment).
- Be able to pass a background check, including drug screen (which includes marijuana) and have proper documentation to work in the U.S. outside of just your school district (to be eligible for the stipend).
- Have flexibility and the ability to learn new information and techniques in a hands-on environment.
- Have an ability to communicate complicated information to students, with a special interest in STEM.
- Have a building administrator that is supportive of your participation and willing to write a letter of support.
- Have excellent communications skills.
- Willingness to learn & incorporate technology applications into the lab experience and classroom.
- Be willing to embed your summer experiences to create, modify or adapt student learning experiences (i.e. labs, demos or lessons) in your classroom the following fall and beyond.

When can I apply? The Institute's RET Program deadline for applications for the 2023 summer start date is **Apr 7, 2023**. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial in April.

How do I apply? You will need to apply online (link provided in February). Please plan to include a current resume, letter of support from your building administrator and answers to the questions below.

Application deadline **April 7, 2023**.

- Your motivation for applying.
- What you hope to gain by participating in this RET program?
- What classroom application do you see this experience providing you and your students?
- How do you plan to share your learning with colleagues?



- What are your leadership strengths and experiences?
- Please attach one science lesson plan to your application.
 - And explain your approach to teaching science (i.e. core components you include in teaching science and why?).

How are applicants notified of selections? After review, the Institute will notify applicants of their status via the e-mail address from which they submitted their application.

How is the Institute RET Teacher compensated for their internship time? Pending funding, participants can expect to receive a \$3,600 stipend for their 4-weeks of internship work in the summer and active participation in the 5 PD days.

- \$3,400 will be paid at the end of the 4-week summer externship, including attendance at all 4 PD days. (June 5 – June 30, 2023)
- \$200 to be paid upon completion of 2023-2024 evaluations.

Where will the externship be located? The teacher externs will be assigned to a project(s) at a STEM company in the metro Denver area.

What would an Institute RET Teacher do while at the “lab”? The teacher externs will be assigned to projects/companies and the locations may vary from Aurora to Longmont. Teachers will be assigned to companies. Teachers can expect to participate in a myriad of activities while in the company ranging from recording data to assisting in utilizing research equipment, running lab tests or being responsible for a project.

What would be expected of me if I became an Institute RET Teacher?

As an **Institute RET Teacher**, you must be willing to fulfill several program requirements prior to, during, and after your experience. Major obligations require participants to:

- Attend and actively participate in 4 PD days (PD Dates: June 5, 12, 23, 30, 2023)
- Complete 4 weeks, four-8hrs/day of STEM company internship work and 4 PD days (June 5 – June 30, 2023).
- Maintain notes documenting your company experience and for later use as a tool in your classroom as an example of the interdisciplinary nature of “real” STEM work.
- Create a Learning Experience (Unit/PBL/Lessons) for taking the experience back to your classroom and implement that in the 2023/2024 school year. These classroom learning experiences should address the activities being conducted in your lab/work experience, the NGSS Science & Engineering Practices you learned over the summer sessions and/or the introduction of new STEM careers learned as a result of your experience. Lab/Company mentors can assist with the planning of this, and time will be allotted in PD as work time for this project.
- Establish school community communication plan to share the externship experience (i.e. parent blog, wiki page, newsletter, back to school night, professional learning community events)
- Conduct presentation at a local STEM conference and/or school or district training (Example: CO Science Conference), including recruitment information for future teacher externs.
- Complete all surveys, observations, focus-groups, and/or interviews associated with the research/evaluation of the Institute’s RET program. Please note, some of these will take place during the following school year.
- Be willing to present at the professional development days the following summer (Pending funding, an additional honorarium for this will be offered).