

Credit Flexibility: Partnerships

The increased demands for college and career readiness require educators and business leaders to work together more closely to successfully meet the challenges of the 21st century economy.

The [Metropolitan Cleveland Consortium for STEM \(MC²STEM\) Hub](#) was created as a public-private partnership “to create innovative teaching and learning opportunities for all students...and impact the workforce’s retooled and emerging industries” ([MC²STEM Hub](#), 2008). Partnerships such as the MC²STEM Hub are exactly the kinds that are encouraged through programs like the [Ohio STEM Learning Network](#) and the Ohio credit flexibility policy.

The [Cleveland Metropolitan School District](#) brokered a unique partnership with GE Lighting to support real-world learning experiences for Cleveland students.

Partnership Details

The [MC²STEM High School](#), one of the first projects this partnership began, is located on the Nela Park Campus of [GE Lighting](#). In addition to providing the physical location for the high school, GE provides instructional support through tutoring, mentoring, and job shadowing programs as well as through assistance to MC²STEM High School staff in the design and implementation of [transdisciplinary capstones](#).

GE Lighting created a position in which the liaison manages all of the activities between MC²STEM High School and GE volunteers. GE Volunteers serve as tutors, buddies, project and FIRST Robotics mentors, and instructors.

GE and MC²STEM trained the tutors together; however, the high school covered the cost of background checks for all GE employees that would be interacting directly with students.

Tutors are available twice a week during lunch and complete a form at the end of each tutoring session that provides high school staff with the data necessary to show growth and to identify areas where additional instructional supports are needed.

Instructional Delivery

GE volunteers design and deliver the instruction for one of the sophomore courses. GE volunteers developed the [STEM Sophomore Project](#) (based on LED lighting technology) from academic benchmarks and GE business practices. All sophomores participate in the project.

The sophomore project is a graduation requirement that takes students through the business process model from idea to working prototype, providing exposure to all aspects of the business, including marketing, engineering and finance. Students are directly engaged with GE volunteers and assessed by GE business leaders during a trade show and formal presentation.

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“It is such a great investment. For \$40 [for a background check], you get a professional who is willing to work one-on-one with a student.”

Jeffrey McClellan
Head of School
MC²STEM High School



Jeffrey D. McClellan

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