

2026 Peter Doherty Awards

for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education



Application guide: 2026 Outstanding School STEM Awards

In this guide, you will find information to assist you with your application for a **Peter Doherty Outstanding School STEM Award**. Please read through this information carefully and complete the application checklist on page 3 before submitting your application.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to receive a **Peter Doherty Outstanding School STEM Award**, you must:

- be a state or non-state school in Queensland (for primary or secondary learning) and be able to provide a letter of support from a referee who is not a staff member at the school; and
- not have previously received a Peter Doherty Award.

Applicants can nominate themselves or be nominated.

If the applicant is nominated by another person, the applicant must:

- agree to the nomination,
- provide the nominator with the necessary information so they can address all selection criteria; and
- each application must be endorsed by the Principal.

Please note: as Environmental Education Centres and Outdoor Education Centres are established institutions to provide education instruction to persons enrolled at State Schools these centres should apply for the **STEM Education Partnership Awards**.

How to apply

Once you have determined that you are eligible to apply for the award, you will then need to:

- write a statement of no more than 1,000 words in support of your application that responds to the selection criteria outlined on pages 2 and 3;
- have the details of two referees who agree to endorse your application. The referees may be asked to provide more information about aspects of your written statement;
- obtain a letter of support from a referee who is not a staff member at the school; and
- click on the [Entrant Portal](#) to create an account and submit via upload:
 - your application;
 - details of two referees;
 - letter of support from a referee who is not a staff member at the school; and
 - each application must be endorsed by the Principal.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.



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Written statement

Your written statement provides an opportunity to tell us about your school, its activities, achievements and interests in STEM, and why you believe the school should receive a **Peter Doherty Outstanding School STEM Award**.

Your statement should be no more than 1,000 words and should clearly respond to the selection criteria outlined in the table below. A selection panel will use these criteria to assess your application.

When writing your response, make sure you are succinct — consider using dot points where appropriate to summarise — and give examples of the school's achievements and activities in STEM. Outcomes data should be included to support the application.

Selection criteria: Outstanding School STEM Award

The school:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstrates excellence in science or technology or engineering or mathematics curriculum and assessment.
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– a comprehensive, contextualised and enacted whole-school curriculum program that is based on the Australian Curriculum (or another approved curriculum) in science or technology or engineering or mathematics, with links to other current state and national initiatives;– innovative strategies and initiatives that lead to improved student achievement and/or increased student participation in science or technology or engineering or mathematics;– a commitment to enacting best practice pedagogy and curriculum in science or technology or engineering or mathematics;– strong instructional and curriculum leadership practices in science or technology or engineering or mathematics; and/or– use of content and school practices that reflect contemporary scientific and technological developments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provides quality learning for all students in STEM, with a focus on science or technology or engineering or mathematics.
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– systematic teaching practices tailored to meet the needs of individual learners, with a focus on lifting student achievement. The school consistently promotes practices that affirm the belief that every student can learn and achieve; and/or– use of differentiated teaching practices, including extension using critical and creative thinking, to support students within science or technology or engineering or mathematics programs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Uses productive partnerships to enhance or extend the school science or technology or engineering or mathematics program.
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– productive relationships between the school and its partners to deliver improved educational opportunities for students in science or technology or engineering or mathematics; and/or– celebration and promotion of the achievements of STEM students and the teaching of science or technology or engineering or mathematics to the wider community.

The school:

- **Is committed to the ongoing building of teacher capability and professional development in science or technology or engineering or mathematics.**

This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:

- high levels of support and assistance given to teachers in the school to;
 - enhance and improve the teaching of science or technology or engineering or mathematics;
 - increase the level of curriculum or pedagogy knowledge in STEM; and
 - increase the capability of beginning and/or out-of-field teachers;
- the scope of opportunities made available to staff, and the levels of teacher participation.

More about the awards

How the award is to be used

The **Peter Doherty Outstanding School STEM Award** is to be used to assist the school to undertake further STEM education activities.

Award ceremony

Schools receiving a **Peter Doherty Outstanding School STEM Award** will be invited to nominate one representative to attend the August award presentation ceremony in Brisbane. It is anticipated that successful applicants will attend the award ceremony.

If required, the travel and accommodation expenses of the person representing the school receiving an **Outstanding School STEM Award** will be paid by the Department of Education.

Application checklist

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have:

- ☐ read carefully through the application guide;
- ☐ checked that your school meets the eligibility requirements for the award;
- ☐ written a statement of no more than 1,000 words that clearly responds to the award selection criteria;
- ☐ details of two referees;
- ☐ provided a letter of support from a referee who is not a staff member at the school; and
- ☐ completed the Principal's endorsement of application form.

Once you have completed all items on this checklist, click on the [Entrant Portal](#) to create an account and submit your application.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.

Further information

If you would like further information or if you have any questions about the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education, please email peterdohertyawards@ged.qld.gov.au.