Believe in Ohio – FAQ

Teacher Frequently Asked Questions
STEM Advocates Answer Your Questions

1. **How does this program fit into my existing curriculum?**
   A: The mileposts that guide students along in *Believe in Ohio* are strongly connected to career, financial literacy, 21st Century, and nature of science learning standards. It is cross-curricular as students work to complete their plans.

2. **What are the advantages for students?**
   A: It challenges the 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.

3. **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.

4. **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 in their classrooms, and student resources that help students develop their STEM Commercialization and STEM Business Plans.

5. **How do I get started?**
   A: Click on this link to request *Believe in Ohio* to contact you. Your regional STEM Advocate will then reach out to help you get started.

6. **What should be my first steps with students?**
   A: Introduce students to the Student Roadmap with the Mileposts. Let them know they will be exploring a topic that they have an interest in developing.

7. **How much time do I have 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 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.* We provide for free all of the needed curriculum as well as a comprehensive array of teacher and student program support materials.

10. **How is the community 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 principals 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 this year 2019-2020?**
    A: For the 2019-2020 school year, the deadline to submit results of local judging is 30 days after all local competition are completed, but no later than June 30, 2020.

13. **What are the different ways *Believe in Ohio* can 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 as a path to graduation.

14. **Does *Believe in Ohio* fit the criteria for a senior capstone project for an alternative path to graduation?**
    A: It certainly does fit. If *Believe in Ohio* is the basis for a senior capstone project, the governance from the Ohio Department of Education must be closely adhered to. *Believe in Ohio* covers many of the criteria that are required. ODE rules state that: "student must identify a timeline and plan of action for completing the capstone project". The capstone project must be completed during the 12th grade year. Districts should consult local policy to determine when the 12th grade year officially begins and ends for a student. If the student is considered a 12th during the summer prior to his or her senior year, the capstone may be completed during this time. [Click here to see information from the ODE.](#)

15. **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 a certain area of science.

16. **How are the cash awards paid to students?**
    A: The deadline for teachers to submit the application for competition award is the same as the deadline to complete the local competition i.e. 30 days after local competition ends, but no later than June 30, 2020. Students will generally receive their cash award checks at their home addresses within 2-4 weeks after completion of an online student application form.

17. **How can I use *Believe in Ohio* with a senior capstone project in programs like Project Lead the Way in a time framework for students to be eligible for regional and state competition scholarships?**
    A: There are two approaches a teacher may take. They may introduce the program during the spring of 2020 to allow students to begin the process but would sign an MOU in the fall of 2020-2021 when students would complete their Plans. Plans and local competitions would need to be completed by December 2020 to compete in the Regional Competition. Teachers may also introduce the *Believe in Ohio* framework during the 2019-2020 school year for junior classes to complete Plans during that year that will then be eligible for competition for the December 2020 regional competition. Although this would not be a "senior" capstone, completing a *Believe in Ohio* Plan would allow them practice in the process of completing a capstone project and allow them to compete in regional and possibly state competitions.