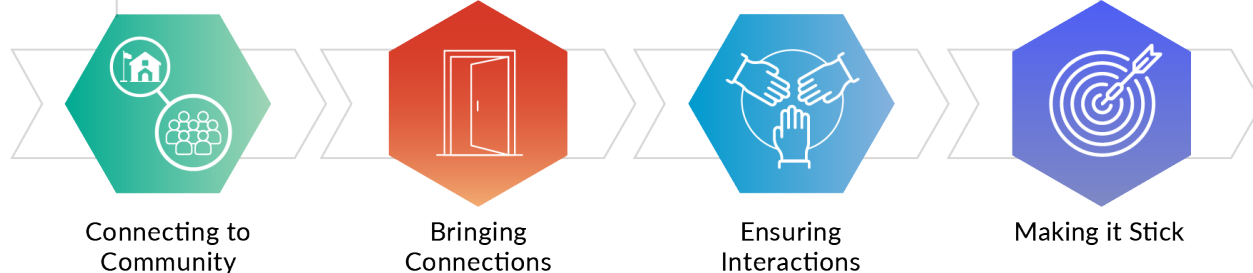


INTEGRATING CAREER CONNECTIONS INTO YOUR STEM PROGRAM

DURING THE SCHOOL DAY



CONNECTING CLASSROOM WORK TO STEM CAREERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- » **Discuss local issues or challenges.** Make clear connections between topics that utilize STEM solutions in the community and work you are doing in class
- » **Tap in to career development resources at your school.** Use career awareness activities to help youth visualize STEM career pathways.
- » **Learn about local STEM jobs.** Share examples of local jobs that tie into the STEM learning experience.
- » **Recruit STEM mentors.** Arrange for local STEM professionals to mentor your students during regular class time.
- » **Plan a field trip.** Visit a STEM business or organization that connects to your unit.



BRINGING STEM CAREER CONNECTIONS TO YOUR STUDENTS

- » **Clear alignment is key.** Choose mentors and field trips that clearly align with the STEM experiences youth will have in class.
- » **Walk through all the logistics in advance.** Consider: schedule, transitions between locations and/or activities, mentor/student ratio, grouping arrangements, back ups for cancellations or absent students, materials needed, etc.
- » **Virtual meetings require extra planning.** If mentors will be meeting with students virtually, plan ahead for the technology usage across multiple classes and students (e.g., how will students connect to the virtual meeting, will students be sharing equipment, will they need headphones, will you use breakout rooms, etc).
- » **Ensure all students have access to mentors.** Consider having mentors record their presentations so that you can share them across multiple class periods.



ENSURING MENTOR-YOUTH INTERACTIONS GO SMOOTHLY

- » **Provide orientation for the mentors.** Prepare them to share about their career path and to engage with youth around their STEM classwork.
- » **Sequencing is important.** Determine what background knowledge or learning experiences students need to have prior to meeting with mentors.
- » **Be strategic.** Determine objectives for the mentor-student meetings. Plan how to make the best use of the mentors' time.
- » **Prepare students for success.** Provide structure for students to present their work and prepare questions to ask their mentors in advance.



MAKING IT STICK

- » **Plan for multiple touchpoints.** Youth should think about and make connections to STEM careers throughout the unit, and through different types of activities.
- » **Time for reflection.** Build in time to reflect on connections to STEM activities following each interaction with mentors.
- » **Highlight STEM skills.** Plan to explore and build upon STEM skills multiple times throughout the unit.