

# WHAT IS THE STEM<sub>BY</sub>TAF

## PARTNERSHIP BEING PROPOSED FOR WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Seattle Public Schools has the exciting, potential opportunity to partner with Technology Access Foundation (TAF) to implement the STEM<sub>BY</sub>TAF educational model to contribute to our strategic plan priority to “support students of color who are furthest from educational justice.” In their 20+ year history, TAF has impacted over 19,000 students resulting in a 95% on-time high school graduation rate and a 100% college acceptance rate. In an effort to help our TM community learn more about what a partnership with STEM<sub>BY</sub>TAF could bring to Washington Middle School, we are providing the following resources:

### The District’s TAF information page (incl. FAQs)

[tinyurl.com/SPSTAF](http://tinyurl.com/SPSTAF)

### STEM<sub>BY</sub>TAF Presentation at Washington Middle School

*“Preparing Students to Create a World They Envision: The willingness to deeply connect with students and disrupt the current formulaic and inequitable school model.”*

[tinyurl.com/TAFPDPF](http://tinyurl.com/TAFPDPF)

### TAF Website

*Info related to TAF’s mission and vision*

<https://techaccess.org/>

### Community Engagement Meetings

*The District with TAF will be hosting meetings for families to learn more. Those dates and locations are:*

December 17, 2019, 6 - 7 p.m. Bailey Gatzert Elementary

**\*\*December 19, 6 - 7 p.m. Thurgood Marshall Elementary\*\***

Thurgood Marshall’s PTA created a survey to provide input to the district on questions to address at the information session. Please complete the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NLJMF8M>

### Other Important Dates

**December 18, 2019**

Executive Committee will meet to discuss TAF and vote.  
*Open to public, no time for comments.*

**January 8, 2019**

School Board meeting. TAF plan will be an “introduction” item on the board agenda if it passes out of committee.  
*Open to public, time for comments.*

**January 22, 2019**

The Board will vote on the TAF item.  
*Open to public, time for comments.*

**February 3, 2019**

Start of Open Enrollment

# WHAT WOULD STEMBYTAF AT WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL LOOK LIKE FOR OUR STUDENTS?

## The Four Pedagogical Pillars of TAF

- STEM Integration  
*Cultivating opportunities for students and teachers to engage with STEM professionals and activities, both on and off campus.*
- Interdisciplinary Project-Based Learning (PBL)  
*Project-based learning allows students to respond to a “real-world” question purposefully and integrating multiple subject areas to learn key academic content in a more holistic way.*
- Educational Technology  
*Developing the capacity for students to use various software and technologies to be successful and competitive.*
- College & Career Readiness  
*Awareness that college is a viable option; eligibility for college admissions; and college-level preparedness without remediation.*

## Class Setup

- Students in “Houses” containing 80-90 students each. Houses are randomly chosen groups of students that take all core courses together. Teachers in a House collaborate to define projects, support students and evaluate data.
- Houses have three core subject teachers: science, math and humanities
- Loop 6th and 7th grade to support student readiness for 8th grade
- Provide at least one high school certified math teacher to support advanced learners
- Humanities teachers must be certified in both ELA and Social Studies

## Proposed Courses

- Math: (All grades) The minimum threshold is for all 8th graders to take algebra, and there will need to be an effort to ensure incoming students are on track to meet it. All students will be supported in achieving at their highest potential. High school credit available.
- Humanities: (All grades) Teacher must be certified in ELA and Social Studies
- Science: (All grades)
- World Language (6th-8th): 6th & 7th grade samples options. 8th graders may take for high school credit
- Health (All grades): 8th graders may get high school credit
- Physical Education: (All grades)
- Engineering: (Available to 7th & 8th grade only), Elective
- Computer Science: (Available to 7th and 8th grade only), Elective
- Art and Design: (All grades), Elective
- Music: (All grades), Elective
- Robotics: (6th grade entry to engineering and computer science), Elective
- Current WMS Elective: (grades determined by class), Elective

## Student Opportunities

- Summer Jump Start for incoming 6th graders
- More time to learn
- Ability to demonstrate multiple ways of meeting standards
- Field trips relevant to projects
- College and Career Fair, college visits
- STEM Expo
- Out of school time extended learning
- Robotics Team
- Engineering Lab
- Learn from industry professionals

This and more information can be found at

[https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what\\_s\\_new/community\\_engagement/technology\\_access\\_foundation/stem\\_by\\_taf\\_information](https://www.seattleschools.org/district/calendars/news/what_s_new/community_engagement/technology_access_foundation/stem_by_taf_information)