



Research Experience for Teachers (RET) 2025 Teachers FAQ

Who is the Colorado BioScience Institute (the Institute)? The [Colorado BioScience Institute](#) (the Institute) is a 501(c)3 non-profit, cultivating and diversifying the life sciences workforce in Colorado from classrooms, to campuses, to careers. The Institute nurtures an early love of science with STEM education, engages students and teachers through hands-on experiences, and empowers employees with professional development.

Why the Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program? The Institute seeks to provide teachers with practical knowledge and hands-on STEM company experience to enhance their content understanding and classroom practice, especially related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Who may apply for the Institute's RET program? To be eligible to apply to the Institute's Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program, you must meet these minimum requirements:

- Be **currently employed, full-time**, and employed in the same or similar capacity next year as a grade 6-12 science or CTE teacher within Adams 12, Brighton 27J, Cherry Creek Jeffco Public Schools, Denver Public Schools, Aurora Public Schools, Mapleton Public Schools or Westminster Public Schools. **Note:** We regret that we cannot accept applications from part-time, substitute, or pre-service teachers or teaching assistants.
- Be willing to make a 4-week summer commitment to the program, including 4 PD days (June 4, 9, 16, & 27).
- Highly qualified science teacher (CO Teaching License. Completed 24 credit hours in undergraduate/graduate science, math or technology course work, CTE teachers also considered with district approval).
- Must complete one local presentation (CO Science Conference or other STEM related conference or school or district presentation during your commitment)
- Be able to pass a background check, including drug screen (which includes marijuana) and have proper documentation to work in the U.S. outside of just your school district (to be eligible for the stipend).
- Have flexibility and the ability to learn new information and techniques in a hands-on environment.
- Have an ability to communicate complicated information to students, with a special interest in STEM.
- Have a building administrator that is supportive of your participation and willing to write a letter or send an email of support.
- Have excellent communications skills.
- Willingness to learn & embed your summer experiences to create, modify or adapt student learning experiences (i.e. labs, demos or lessons) in your classroom the following fall and beyond.

When can I apply? The Institute's RET Program deadline for applications for the 2025 summer start date is **April 14, 2025**. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or denial by May 1, 2025.



How do I apply? You will need to complete an online [interest form](#), selecting your program of interest as the Research Experience for Teachers program. You will then be sent instructions for completing the application process. For the final application, please plan to include a current resume and answers to the questions below. **Application deadline April 14, 2025.** We will also ask that you have a building administrator send an email recommendation on your behalf.

- Your motivation for applying.
- What do you hope to gain by participating in the Research Experience for Teachers program?
- What skills or knowledge are you hoping to gain from this externship, and how do you envision applying this in your classroom in the future?
- How do you plan to share your learning with colleagues?
- Our host companies are located across the Denver and Boulder metro area. Many of these companies will operate within 9-5 workday schedules. Are you willing to drive to and work at your assigned location?

How are applicants notified of selections? After review, the Institute will notify applicants of their status via e-mail.

How is the Institute RET Teacher compensated for their externship time? Pending funding, participants can expect to receive a **\$3,200 stipend** for their 4-weeks of internship work in the summer (4-days/week, 8-hour days) and active participation in the 4 PD days (6 hours/day – 1.5 credit).

- \$3,000 will be paid at the end of the 4-week summer externship, including attendance at all 4 PD days. (June 4 – June 27, 2025, PD: June 4, 9, 16, 27)
- \$200 to be paid upon completion of 2025-2026 evaluations.

Where will the externship be located? The teacher externs will be assigned to a project(s) at a STEM company in the metro Denver and Boulder areas (company examples: Edgewise Therapeutics, Editas Medicine, Highridge Medical, STAQ Pharma, TriSalus Life Sciences).

What would be expected of me if I became an Institute RET Teacher?

The teacher externs will be assigned to projects/companies and the locations may vary from Aurora to Longmont. Teachers will be assigned to companies. Teachers can expect to participate in a myriad of activities while in the company ranging from recording data to assisting in utilizing research equipment, running lab tests or being responsible for a project. As an **Institute RET Teacher**, you must be willing to fulfill several program requirements prior to, during, and after your experience. Major obligations require participants to:

- Attend and actively participate in 4 PD days (PD Dates: June 4, 9, 16, & 27, 2025)
- Complete 4 weeks, four-8hrs/day of STEM company internship work and 4 PD days (**June 4 – June 27, 2025**).
- Maintain notes documenting your company experience and for later use as a tool in your classroom as an example of the interdisciplinary nature of STEM industry work.
- Create a Learning Experience (Unit/PBL/Lessons) for taking the experience back to your classroom and implement that in the 2025/2026 school year. These classroom learning experiences should address the activities being conducted in your lab/work experience, the NGSS Science & Engineering Practices you learned over the summer sessions and/or the



introduction of new STEM careers learned because of your experience. Lab/Company mentors can assist with the planning of this, and time will be allotted in PD as work time for this project.

- Establish school community communication plan to share the externship experience (i.e. parent blog, wiki page, newsletter, back to school night, professional learning community events, school/district training day)
- Conduct presentation at a local STEM conference and/or school or district training (Example: CO Science Conference), including recruitment information for future teacher externs.
- Complete all surveys, observations, focus-groups, and/or interviews associated with the research/evaluation of the Institute's RET program. Please note, some of these will take place during the following school year.
- Be willing to present at the professional development days the following summer (Pending funding, an additional honorarium for this will be offered).