

# City Council Meeting STEAM Center Update



Deidra Emerson, Deputy City Manager  
April 4, 2023



CITY OF WACO

# Topics of Discussion

- What is STEAM?
- The Benefits of a STEAM Facility
- Location of STEAM Facility
- Proposed Uses of STEAM Facility
- Steering Committee Members
- Operational Options
- Next Steps

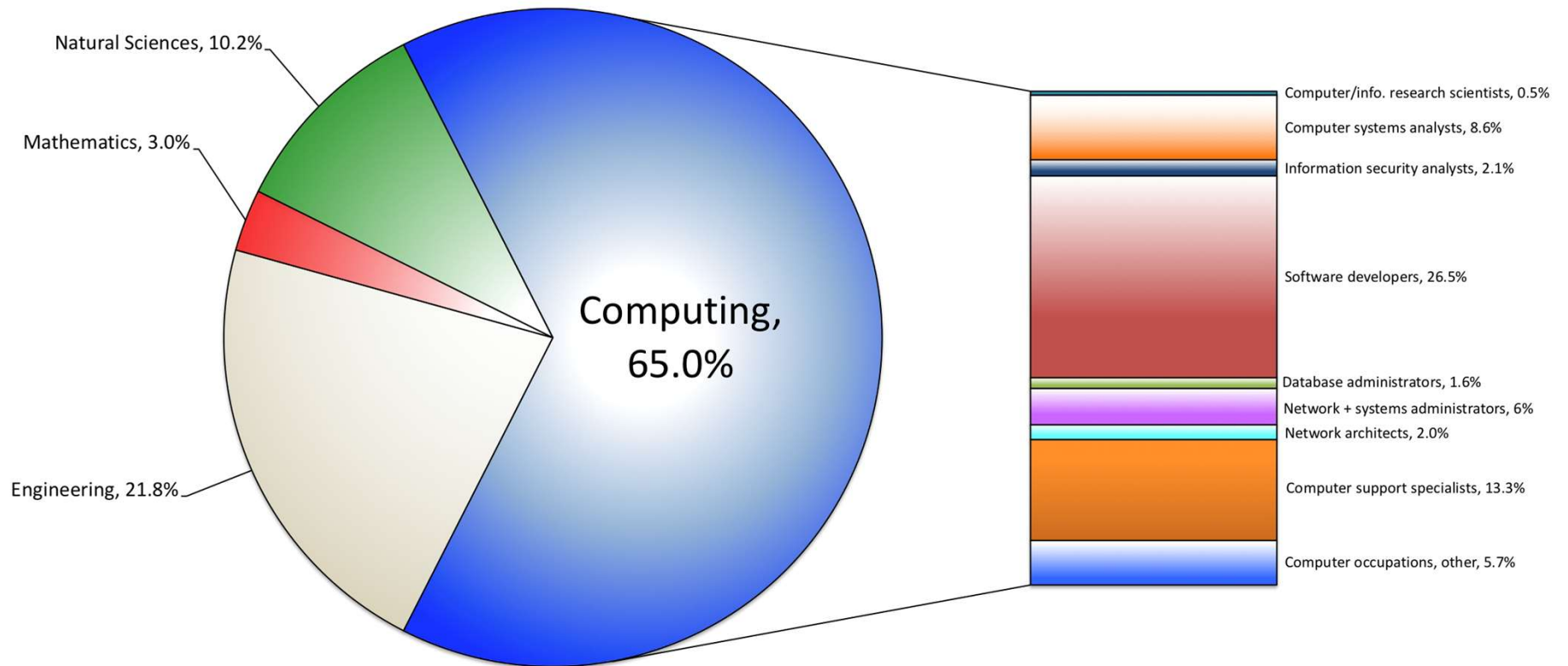
# What is S.T.E.A.M.?

STEAM is a combination of two or more of the following within a learning experience: **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.**

**STEAM also teaches soft skills needed in all careers, such as:**

- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Solving tough problems
- ✓ Critical thinking
- ✓ Gathering and evaluating evidence
- ✓ Making sense of information
- ✓ Data analysis
- ✓ Communication





Data Source: US-BLS Employment Projections (<https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/emp-by-detailed-occupation.htm>)

What is S.T.E.A.M.?

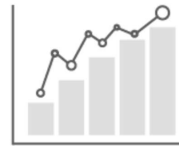
# Benefits of providing Programming

## 26%

STEM workers tend to earn about 26% more than non-STEM workers.

## 2x

Yearly growth for STEM jobs is projected to be almost double that of non-STEM jobs.



Whether they work in a STEM field or not, people with a degree in STEM earn more than non-STEM counterparts.

Employers in non-STEM fields heavily recruit graduates with STEM degrees because they possess skills that students with other majors may not have developed.

## Slide 5

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**BFO**      [@Deidra Emerson], I think I would say something to the effect of, "STEAM is the future of work, whether you are in a factory, warehouse, or hospital. This is because the skills learned are transferrable."

Bradley Ford, 2023-03-30T01:22:08.740

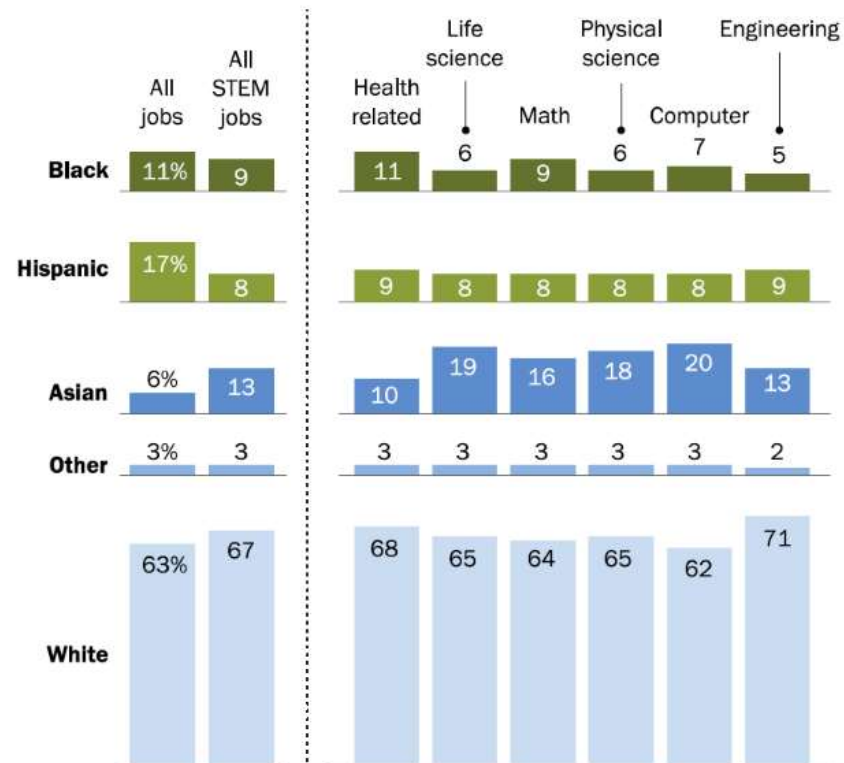
**DE0 0**    [@Bradley Ford], I planned to include your comments along with the data I have from Kris on businesses coming into our market.

Deidra Emerson, 2023-03-30T13:41:57.846

# Benefits of providing Programming

## Black and Hispanic workers remain underrepresented in the STEM workforce

% who are...



Notes: Based on employed adults ages 25 and older. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math occupations. Engineering includes architects. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Other includes non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaskan native, non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and non-Hispanic two or more major racial groups. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2017-19 American Community Survey (IPUMS) "STEM Jobs See Uneven Progress in Increasing Gender, Racial and Ethnic Diversity"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Slide 6

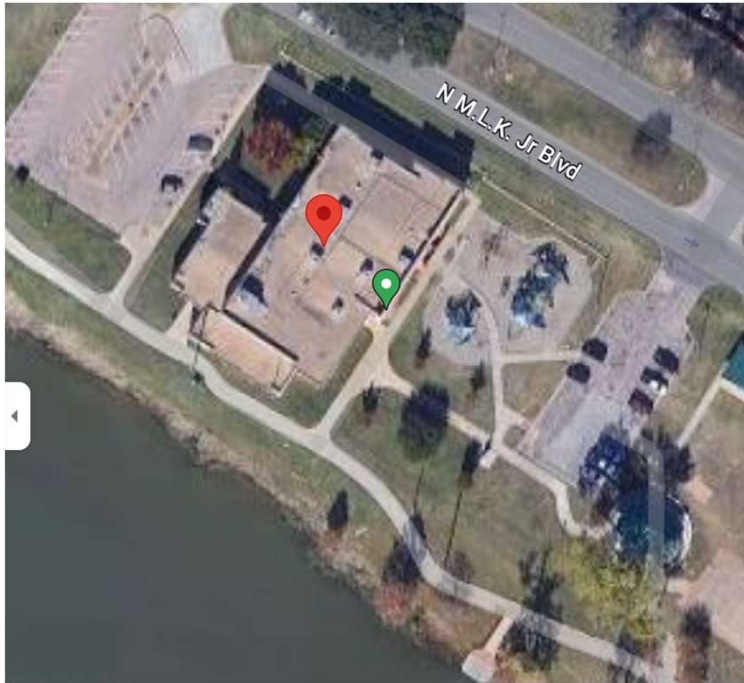
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**BFO**

[@Deidra Emerson] Take or leave this. It comes from this article  
([https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2021/04/01/stem-jobs-see-uneven-progress-in-increasing-gender-racial-;](https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2021/04/01/stem-jobs-see-uneven-progress-in-increasing-gender-racial-?)  
which I found helpful to think about why STEAM is of interest to us in the core of Waco.

Bradley Ford, 2023-03-30T01:20:24.858





## Facility Location

Bledsoe-Miller Community Center is a 14,000 sq. ft. 2-story concrete and stucco structure on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

# Proposed Use of the Bledsoe-Miller Space

- Operate a STEAM Center Hub
- Classrooms for Seminars and Workshops
- Provide Exhibit Hall Space
- Outdoor Exhibit Area



## Slide 8

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- BFO**      [@Deidra Emerson] Let's add a slide near this point in the PPT to remind public that we have \$6m (verify) from Council for renovation in current year budget, as well as a commitment to fund \$xxx by Baylor.  
Bradley Ford, 2023-03-30T01:12:08.175
- PC0 0**    [@Deidra Emerson] In support of a future STEAM academy in East Waco, Texas, Baylor agrees to contribute \$500,000.00 to the project, due and payable to the City upon the STEAM academy receiving a Certificate of Occupancy from the City.  
Paul Cain, 2023-03-30T13:57:14.741
- DE0 1**    [@Paul Cain] thanks I will add that to comments on slide 11. I'm building it and will finish today.  
Deidra Emerson, 2023-03-30T14:04:37.237
- DE0 2**    I have the \$6.250,000 that have been allocated by the city.  
Deidra Emerson, 2023-03-30T14:05:13.003

# Proposed Steering Committee Members

- City of Waco
- Baylor University
- McLennan Community College
- Texas State Technical College
- Waco ISD
- LaVega ISD
- Rappoport Schools
- Mars Wrigley
- HoltCat
- L3 Harris
- SpaceX
- Chambers (all)







# Sample City-Initiated Programming

Our Libraries, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Engineering Services, and Water Utilities Departments have offered the following STEAM. enrichment opportunities:

- Water Education Today (WET) Conservation Water Science Program
- Minecraft & Roblox clubs
- Candy Science program for teens
- Bird watching
- Gardening activities
- Kids Cooking
- Lego S.T.E.M. Class
- S.T.E.A.M. Day (Previously "Engineering Day")

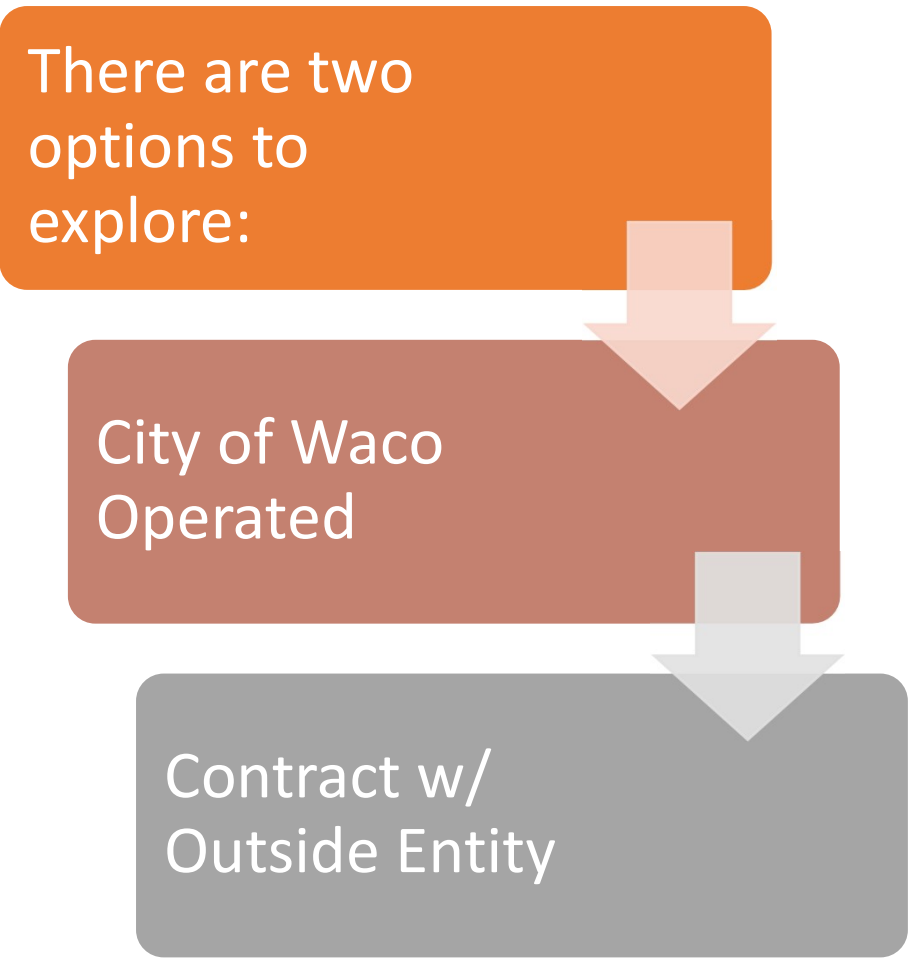




## Funding Commitments

City of Waco	\$6,250,000
Baylor University	\$ 500,000

There are two  
options to  
explore:



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graph TD; A[There are two options to explore:] --> B[City of Waco Operated]; B --> C[Contract w/ Outside Entity];
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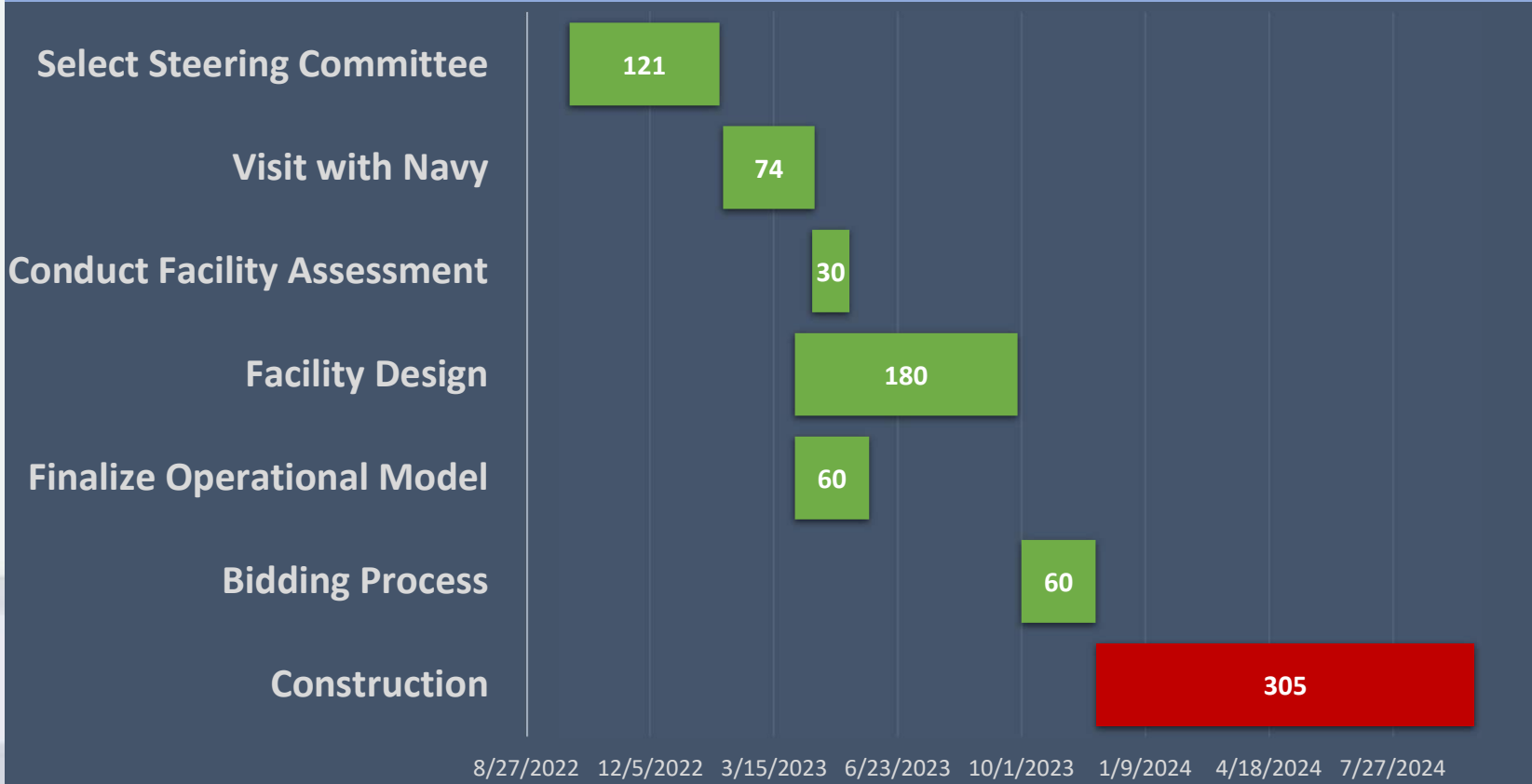
The diagram is a vertical flowchart. It starts with an orange box at the top containing the text 'There are two options to explore:'. A light orange arrow points down from this box to a reddish-brown box containing the text 'City of Waco Operated'. From this second box, a grey arrow points down to a grey box containing the text 'Contract w/ Outside Entity'.

City of Waco  
Operated

Contract w/  
Outside Entity

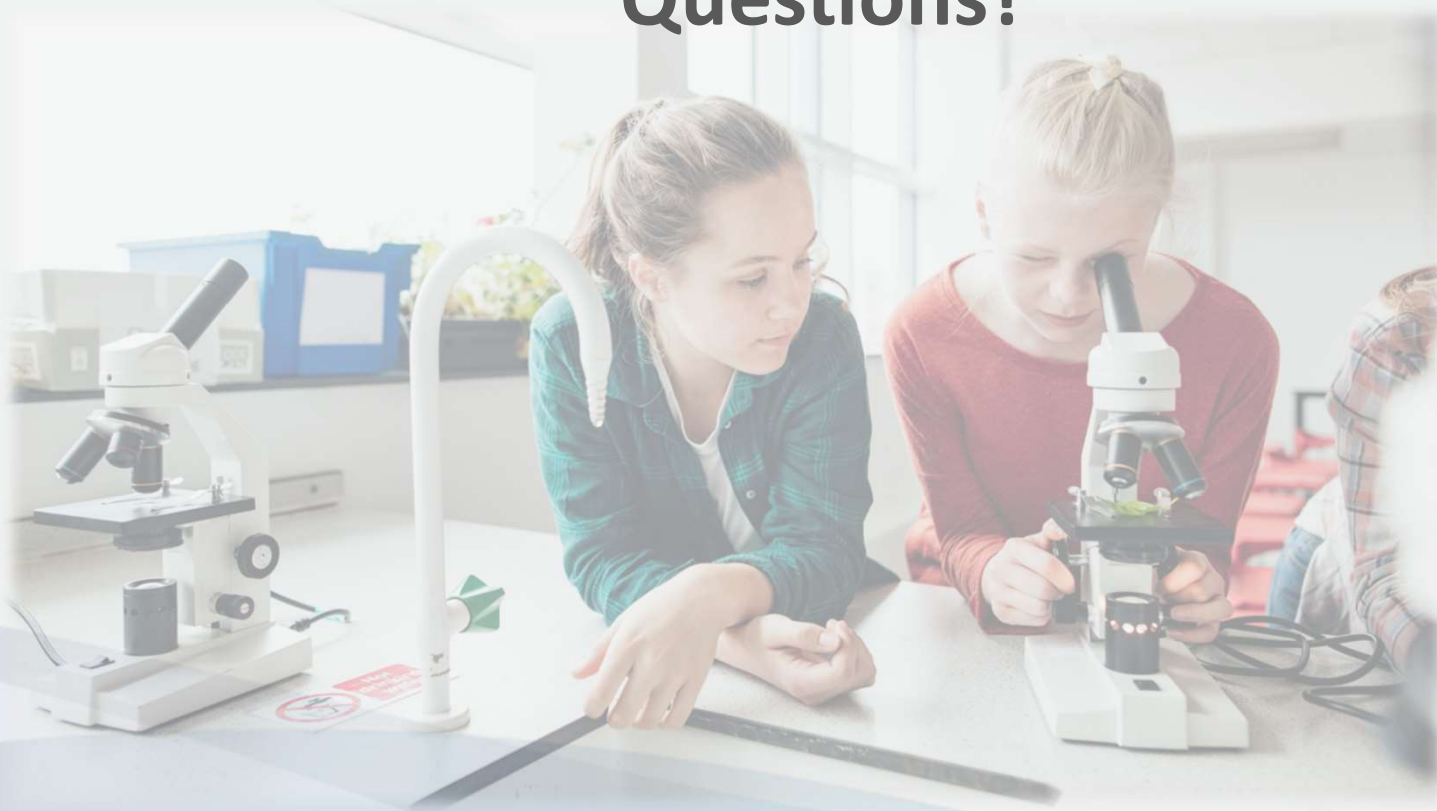
Operational  
Model

# Anticipated Schedule





# Questions?



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