

DeKalb High School of Technology South

Dart Foundation STEAM Grant Narrative

Law and Justice Pathway and Welding Pathway

Project Description

DeKalb High School of Technology South is requesting funding from The Dart Foundation to support a STEAM-related project that will expand hands-on, career-focused learning in the Law and Justice and Welding pathways. As a career and technical education center, DHST-S prepares students for high-demand careers by providing authentic learning experiences that connect classroom instruction to real-world industry skills. This project will allow students to apply science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through practical, industry-aligned activities that strengthen problem-solving, technical skill development, communication, and career readiness.

The Law and Justice pathway will use grant funds to create an outdoor crime scene investigation classroom. This space will allow students to conduct realistic crime scene simulations, practice evidence collection, complete scene measurements and sketches, analyze patterns, document findings, and prepare investigative reports. The project connects directly to STEAM by incorporating forensic science, digital photography, mapping, measurement, data analysis, communication, and critical thinking. Students will also gain exposure to skills aligned with the National Basic Crime Scene Investigator Certification for secondary and post-secondary students, helping them build a stronger foundation for careers in law enforcement, forensic science, public safety, and criminal investigations.

The Welding pathway also strongly supports the goals of a STEAM-focused grant because welding is an applied STEM field that requires precision, design, engineering, mathematics, and technical problem-solving. Students use measurements, angles, blueprints, materials science, heat transfer, and fabrication techniques to design and create functional products. Grant funds will support equipment, tools, safety materials, and instructional supplies that allow students to strengthen their welding and fabrication skills while completing hands-on projects. These experiences prepare students for industry certifications, employment opportunities, apprenticeships, and post-secondary technical programs.

Together, the Law and Justice and Welding pathways provide students with meaningful STEAM experiences that are both academic and career-focused. The outdoor crime scene classroom will serve as a small capital improvement that creates a dedicated instructional environment for investigations, while the welding equipment and supplies will expand students' ability to design, build, and fabricate real-world projects. Both pathways require students to think critically, work collaboratively, use industry tools, follow safety procedures, and apply technical knowledge in a hands-on setting.

This \$50,000 investment will directly support student learning by funding equipment, materials, and instructional spaces that are sustainable and aligned with The Dart Foundation's preference for small capital improvements, equipment purchases, and programming. The project will increase student engagement, strengthen career readiness, and provide students with access to high-quality STEAM learning experiences that reflect real industry expectations.