MARION COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

204 Betsy Pack Drive
Jasper, Tennessee 37347
Telephone: (423) 942-3434
Fax (423) 942-4210

Dr. Mark A. Griffith
Director of Schools

Sherry M. Prince
CTE Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

MIDDLE SCHOOL STEM LEARNING LAB

Notice to Bidders: The Board reserves the right to use the judgment factors to determine which bid shall be in its best interest. Such judgement by the Board shall be final and binding upon all parties that submit a bid. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding.

LOCATION:	Jasper Middle School 15 Hwy 150 Jasper, TN 37347 Whitwell Middle School 1 Butterfly Lane Whitwell, TN 37397
Description:	The MCBOE is soliciting requests for proposals for middle school STEM LEARNING LAB. See detailed bid specs attached.
Bid Price:	Bid price must be fixed and firm unless otherwise noted and documented. Bid price must include freight and delivery of equipment to each of the two middle schools, include setup of equipment and professional development. Payment will be made by check following delivery and inspection of equipment.
Bid Deadline:	January 26, 2026 at 9:00 AM at the Marion County Board of Education: 204 Betsy Pack Drive, Jasper, TN 37347

Required: Send as sealed bids marked “Middle School STEM LEARNING LAB” to the attention of:

Director of Finance
Marion County Board of Education
204 Betsy Pack Drive
Jasper, TN 37347

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BID SPECIFICATION GUIDELINES

Middle School STEM LEARNING LAB

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

District: Marion County
204 Betsy Pack Drive
Jasper, TN 37347

1.1 Project Request / Statement of Work (SOW) for Whitwell Middle School and Jasper Middle School. Bid should include both schools.

Marion County Schools is seeking proposals for a comprehensive, turnkey STEM LEARNING solution for grades 6 through 8 that delivers a cohesive, student-centered instructional experience to Whitwell Middle School and Jasper Middle School. The district seeks a unified system of learning that brings together real-world, project-based learning, integrated hands-on tools and technologies; multimodal digital curriculum; sustained professional learning; purposefully designed learning environments; and long-term partnership and support.

The selected solution must enable middle school students to engage in authentic, hands-on STEM LEARNING challenges that build durable skills; empower educators through evidence-based professional learning and coaching; provide age-appropriate tools and technologies that bring ideas to life; offer guidance for flexible, active learning environments and room design; and include continuous support and improvement processes that ensure long-term program success.

1.2 Issuing Office

Marion County Schools
204 Betsy Pack Drive, Jasper, TN

1.3 Procurement Type

Request for Proposal (RFP) – Competitive Best Value

SECTION 2 – DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK (SOW)

2.1 About Marion County Schools

Marion County Schools is committed to empowering and supporting all individuals in achieving their unique path to success.

Through the Tennessee Innovative School Grant award, the district is focused on expanding academic opportunities, strengthening learning environments, and advancing programs that prepare students for future career exploration and success.

2.2 Project Background

Middle School priorities include strengthening project-based learning and STEM instruction, expanding opportunities for supporting career exploration, while incorporating state standards through differentiated instruction.

The district seeks a single provider who can deliver an integrated middle school solution that includes:

Real-World, Project-Based Learning Experiences

- Active, engaging, hands-on STEM project-based learning anchored in real-world careers, durable skills, and measurable student growth.
- Multimodal digital curriculum that supports accessible, differentiated learning for all learners, including multilingual students.
- Authentic, age-appropriate design challenges that promote inquiry, collaboration, creative problem solving, and reflection.

Sustained Professional Learning and Instructional Support

- Ongoing, multi-stage professional learning that equips educators to confidently facilitate active, student-centered STEM LEARNING instruction.
- Job-embedded coaching, modeling, and facilitation support tailored to middle-school instructional needs.
- Opportunities for continual educator growth, reflection, and refinement of instructional practice.

Integrated Tools, Technology, and Hands-On Materials

- Age-appropriate devices, STEM LEARNING tools, engineering kits, robotics, circuits, sensors, prototyping tools and digital creation tools that bring learning to life.

- Developmentally aligned equipment that supports open-ended challenges and hands-on exploration specifically for grades 6–8.
- Equipment protection, replacement pathways, and sustainability planning to ensure long-term use and value.
- In addition, incorporate existing equipment into learning projects, such as: Glowforge Pro HD Laser Printer; Makerbot Sketch Large 3D printer; UB Tech UKIT intermediate Class pack of robots, 3D Doodler starter packs, and video broadcasting equipment, all to be used in addition and alongside to the proposed Lab.

Flexible, Student-Centered Learning Environments

- Purposeful room design for middle school STEM LEARNING labs, supporting collaboration, exploration, creativity, and active learning.
- Recommendations for flexible furniture, zoned learning areas, storage, technology integration, and safety and workflow that optimize student engagement. Whitwell Middle has desks and chairs already. Jasper Middle does not.
- Environments that encourage teamwork, design thinking and student-driven discovery.

Long-Term Partnership, Support, and Community Engagement

- Continuous partnership including implementation check-ins, coaching, technical assistance, and improvement planning that supports program sustainability.
- Opportunities to showcase student STEM LEARNING work and public products that highlight program outcomes.
- Support for student exhibitions, community events, and family engagement initiatives that strengthen connections between the school and the broader community.

To ensure coherence, quality, and long-term sustainability, the district prefers to work with a single provider responsible for all curriculum, materials, tools, equipment, digital delivery, professional learning, room design recommendations, community engagement supports, and ongoing technical services. This unified approach reflects the district's commitment to strengthening middle school academic programs, expanding STEM LEARNING and preparing students for future academic and career success.

2.3 Project Goals

Marion County School District seeks to implement a comprehensive middle school STEM LEARNING solution that advances the district's strategic priorities while ensuring an engaging,

Goal 1: Strengthen Real-World, Project-Based STEM LEARNING

Provide middle school students with interdisciplinary STEM LEARNING experiences that promote hands-on exploration, creativity, collaboration, engineering design, artistic expression, and real-world problem solving aligned to Tennessee standards.

Goal 2: Build Durable Skills to Support Future College, Career, and Life Readiness

Engage students in authentic challenges that develop communication, critical thinking, adaptability, digital literacy, creativity, collaboration, and other durable skills that prepare them for future academic and career pathways.

Goal 3: Empower Educators Through Sustained Professional Learning

Provide educators with structured professional learning, ongoing coaching, and job-embedded support that build facilitation capacity, deepen STEM LEARNING pedagogical skills, and ensure consistent, high-quality implementation.

Goal 4: Integrate Purpose-Built Tools, Technology, and Equipment

Equip classrooms and spaces with developmentally appropriate robotics platforms, engineering tools, circuits, digital creation tools, and supporting technologies that enhance hands-on learning and creative production.

Goal 5: Design Flexible, Student-Centered Learning Environments

Develop STEM LEARNING space that promotes collaboration, creativity, exploration, and safety through purposeful room design, flexible furniture, clearly defined learning zones, and integration of technology and storage solutions.

Goal 6: Establish a Sustainable, Long-Term Partnership

Ensure ongoing program success through implementation support, technical assistance, sySTEM LEARNING maintenance, and collaborative improvement planning that strengthen teacher capacity and support long-term growth of STEM LEARNING and media programming.

Goal 7: Strengthen Community Engagement and Family Connections

Create opportunities for students to showcase STEM LEARNING work, media projects, and real-world products to families and the community, fostering pride, visibility, and meaningful connections to school learning.

2.4 Project Requirements

The selected provider must deliver a comprehensive, turnkey solution that includes curriculum, tools and equipment, digital delivery, professional learning, space design, and long-term support. The solution must be developmentally appropriate for students in grades 6–8 and fully aligned with state and national learning standards.

The detailed scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:

2.4.1 STEM LEARNING Curriculum and Instructional Resources

The provider must supply a structured, age-appropriate instructional experience that includes:

1. Project-based STEM LEARNING activities aligned to Tennessee Academic Standards and national STEM, engineering, and computer science frameworks.

2. Integrated, interdisciplinary challenges that blend science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.
3. Design challenges with clear criteria and constraints that foster inquiry, experimentation, collaboration, and creative problem-solving.
4. Multimodal digital curriculum accessible to a wide range of learners, including multilingual students.
5. Teacher-facing resources, including lesson plans, facilitation guides, scaffolds, rubrics, pacing recommendations, and student-facing materials.
6. Assessment tools that track student growth in durable skills, STEM competencies, collaboration, creativity, and reflective practices.

2.4.2 Tools, Technology, and Hands-On Materials

The provider must deliver a cohesive set of STEM LEARNING tools and materials that includes:

1. Robotics appropriate for grades 6–8.
2. Engineering kits that support prototyping, modeling, construction, and experimentation.
3. Circuits, sensors, coding tools, and digital creation devices that support hands-on learning.
4. Art, design, and fabrication tools (e.g., digital art devices, modeling materials, creative production equipment).
5. Storage solutions, protection plans, maintenance recommendations, and replacement pathways to ensure long-term sustainability.

2.4.3 Professional Learning and Instructional Support

The provider must offer a comprehensive professional learning and support plan, which includes:

1. Initial educator training for STEM LEARNING facilitation implementation.
2. Ongoing professional learning, including multi-stage development that builds facilitation capacity over time.
3. Job-embedded coaching, modeling, and instructional support aligned to program rollout.
4. Support for reflective practice, peer collaboration, and continuous improvement.
5. Documentation and resources to guide long-term teacher development and implementation fidelity.

2.4.4 Learning Environment Design and Furniture Recommendations

The provider must deliver guidance and recommendations for designing flexible learning environments that include:

1. Room layout designs for STEM LEARNING space that support collaboration, creativity, exploration, and safety.
2. Furniture recommendations, including flexible seating, workstations, storage, and mobile units.

3. Zoned learning areas for robotics, engineering, media production, design work, and collaboration.
4. Technology integration guidance, including power management, device storage, and connectivity planning.
5. Studio design recommendations that address acoustics, lighting, recording zones, safety, and equipment workflows.

2.4.5 Implementation, Support, and Sustainability

The provider must include an implementation strategy that supports both short-term rollout and long-term success, including:

1. Project management support from planning through launch and ongoing implementation.
2. Regular check-ins and collaborative planning with district and building-level leaders.
3. Technical support, troubleshooting resources, and maintenance pathways.
4. Usage monitoring, reflection tools, and improvement planning to strengthen instructional fidelity over time.
5. Sustainability planning, including equipment replacement guidance, curriculum updates, and professional learning roadmaps.

2.4.6 Community Engagement and Student Showcases

The provider should support activities that promote visibility and engagement, including:

1. Showcase opportunities for student STEM projects.
2. Family engagement events, exhibitions of learning, or public showcases.
3. Communication resources or templates for highlighting student work within the school and broader community.
4. Optional partnerships that elevate student voices and connect middle school learning to real-world audiences.

SECTION 3 – PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

- Executive Summary
- Technical Proposal describing the STEM learning
- Detailed STEM learning curriculum description
- Project Work Plan
- Training and Professional Development Plan
- Technology and Equipment Specifications
- Implementation Timeline
- Tennessee Vendor References
- Pricing (provided separately)
- Documents as required in Section 6 - Attachments

SECTION 5 – CONTRACT TERMS & CONDITIONS

The awarded vendor agrees to meet all DTMB contract requirements including insurance, warranty, data privacy (FERPA/COPPA), accessibility compliance, installation standards, and ongoing support obligations.

SECTION 6 – ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A – Company Overview, STEM Curriculum, Professional Development, Implementation Details
- Attachment B – Technical Specifications (Computers, Networking, Printers, Kits)
- Attachment C – Work Plan & Installation Timeline
- Attachment D – Tennessee Core Standards References
- Attachment E – Curriculum & Support Agreement (CSA)

  Attachment F – Detailed STEM LEARNING Lab Inv