SARSEF Endorsed School Self-evaluation Checklist

The SARSEF Endorsed school program is a rigorous set of standards that aim to ensure quality and robust STEM education opportunities exist in PreK-12 learning communities that will serve to increase equity, accessibility, and diversity throughout STEM culture and opportunities. It is key to our mission of expanding critical thinking and problem-solving skills through authentic research and STEM education.

This checklist should serve as a self-evaluation for your school. Please have those on your Endorsement Application Committee review this and determine your school's score. If your score is higher than 45, you are encouraged to begin the application process. Once awarded, SARSEF Endorsed School endorsements will last 3 years.

Rating System
1 = Program not aligned with these criteria
2 = Program actively developing on these criteria
3 = Program meets criteria

I. INNOVATION

Resources: Maximizes and expands available resources to enrich students' experiences with hands-on STEM practices **Ratings:** 1 = Program not aligned, 2 = Program is actively developing, 3 = Program meets criteria	**Points**
Available resources are being maximized and used consistently	
Students have a variety of hands-on STEM opportunities available (labs, gardens, etc.)	
Advocates and institutes executable plans to expand resources	
Total	

Evidence may include documentation of available hands-on STEM resources, examples of student projects utilizing these resources, photographs of students engaged in STEM activities, lesson plans incorporating hands-on practices, and feedback from students and educators about their experiences with these resources.

Curriculum: Schoolwide focus on embedding a science and engineering mindset through cross-cutting concepts within curriculum **Ratings:** 1 = Program not aligned, 2 = Program is actively developing, 3 = Program meets	**Points**
Science and engineering mindset is present in other subjects through cross-cutting concepts	
Schoolwide focus on student-centered real-world relevance	
Commitment to iterating curriculum to reflect current best STEM education practices	
Total	

Evidence may include curriculum maps demonstrating the integration of science and engineering concepts across subjects, project descriptions highlighting real-world applications of student-centered learning, and documentation of professional development sessions focused on current best STEM education practices.

II. EQUITY

STEM Identity: Schoolwide dedication to providing positive and personal STEM experiences for every student **Ratings:** 1 = Program not aligned, 2 = Program is actively developing, 3 = Program meets	**Points**
STEM experiences are provided for every student and not limited to grade level or scholastic achievement (Ex: not limited to gifted programs or clubs)	
Exhibits creativity in personalizing STEM experiences for students	
Students are given opportunities for self-reflection to solidify sense of identity	
Total	

Evidence may include participation records showing that all students have access to STEM experiences regardless of grade level or achievement, examples of individualized STEM projects that reflect student interests and creativity, and surveys or reflections from students discussing how their experiences have influenced their STEM identity.

Representation: Schoolwide community employs continuous measures to promote diverse STEM population within curriculum and school community **Ratings:** 1 = Program not aligned, 2 = Program is actively developing, 3 = Program meets	**Points**
Intentional efforts are taken to showcase a diverse professional STEM population in curriculum	
Students have opportunities to connect directly with mentors and educators that reflect a diverse STEM population	
Discussion about the importance and challenges of underrepresentation	
Total	

Evidence may include curriculum materials that highlight contributions from a diverse range of STEM professionals, records of mentorship programs or events that connect students with diverse role models in STEM fields, and documentation of classroom discussions or activities focused on the importance of representation and the challenges faced by underrepresented groups in STEM.

III. ENGAGEMENT

Real World: Cultivates a schoolwide culture of student-centered problem-solving research **Ratings:** 1 = Program not aligned, 2 = Program is actively developing, 3 = Program meets	**Points**
Problems and phenomena explored are relatable to the student population	
Students are provided context and connection with those directly involved/affected by a given problem	
Students are given the opportunity to explore their own questions and problems	
Total	

Evidence may include project descriptions that demonstrate the relevance of problems and phenomena to the student population, records of guest speakers or community members who provide context and insight into these issues, and examples of student-initiated projects or inquiries that reflect their own questions and interests.

Science Communication: Schoolwide community is routinely engaged in the wider scientific community through science communication **Ratings:** 1 = Program not aligned, 2 = Program is actively developing, 3 = Program meets	**Points**
School is engaged (over many grades and classes) in external science communication (through science fair and/or similar programs)	
Participates in and encourages events to foster a STEM and problem-solving community	
School provides clear ways for students to connect with the wider scientific community	
Total	

Evidence may include documentation of participation in external science communication events, such as science fairs or STEM competitions across various grades, records of school-sponsored STEM events that promote community involvement and problem-solving, and examples of outreach programs or partnerships that facilitate student connections with professionals in the scientific community.

Total Score: ___/54

If your score is above 45 points (with a minimum of 15 points in each category), we encourage you to apply!