The **Digital Teaching & Learning** Grant is bringing **STEM** into the **Classroom**

For Davis School District, the Digital Teaching and Learning Grant was a huge tipping point, furthering their already significant efforts in integrating technology into schools and classrooms.

The Digital Teaching and Learning Qualifying Grant Program provides Local Education Agencies the opportunity to create a 3-year plan for Digital Teaching and Learning.

"Davis School District has done an amazing job getting its technology integration to where it needs be, but with this grant we can now take our efforts to the next level" said Don Beatty, Digital Teaching and Learning Administrator with Davis School District. "When we initially made plans and mapped out the activities with proceeds from this grant we were not prepared for what would unleash! The demand from educators is huge, and now we are scrambling to provide the extra support. It's a great problem to have."

The grant empowers Utah districts to identify their desired needs and goal sets, design local implementation, and allocate resources to achieve these goals. This was not a "one-size fits all approach," but allows Utah LEA's to exercise local control to innovate digital and personalized learning.

Davis School District created a plan that includes four key initiatives:

First, Davis School District provided professional development with a program they developed called "Leading EDGEucator Academy" for their teachers and instructional coaches.

"We conservatively kicked this program off thinking that we would have a few individuals sign up, but it was like when you watch one of those old black and white movies in which they're drilling for oil," Beatty said. "We now have this gusher of need and desire among our teachers and we are scrambling to keep up. We originally planned two

sessions, but with the increased demand now have 5 sessions with nearly 120 educators involved."

Second, in order to stay ahead of the curve with their infrastructure, Davis is working to increase to 10GB the internet speed in their district network because of the anticipated demand for internet access and anytime/anywhere learning.

Third, a grant opportunity was created for educators within the district called the "Innovative Technology Grant Program." Individuals can apply for the grant to receive funding for innovative technology ideas for their classrooms and schools.

"Technology is inherently motivational," Beatty said. "It sparks creativity and imagination and we wanted to find a way to fund and promote that imagination and creativity, and the best way to do that is to support the teachers themselves."

Several teachers have used the funding from the grant to purchase robots and other devices that engage students in problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, and collaborative teamwork using technology.

Finally, Davis School district used the funding to train their leadership. The district plans to have over 110 school and district administrators go through the program. They will learn about leadership and shifting schools to Blended and 21st Century Digital Teaching and Learning.

"Many of these school leaders have never even had an opportunity to access online courses in Canvas before, or had such digital leadership training," Beatty said. "How can administrators be expected to lead out in blended learning if they don't receive adequate training themselves?"

Davis School District received $1.2 million to execute their plan for this year, and over the next year they will get an approximate additional million each year.

"We are truly appreciative of all that the Utah State Board of Education and the State Legislature have done to make this program possible, and to help build students for the jobs of the future," Beatty said.