

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Funding Opportunity for Aviation and Drone Program Development in High Schools

Elizabeth City State University

Release Date: April 14, 2025

Application Link: <https://www.ecsu.edu/academics/develop-aviation.php>

Proposal Submission Deadline: May 1, 2025

I. Overview

Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for North Carolina high schools interested in launching or expanding Aviation and/or Drone programs. ECSU will provide each selected school for lab resources, equipment, supplies, software, and professional development of teachers valued at \$60,000. This initiative aims to enhance STEM education and workforce preparedness in the aviation and drone industry.

II. Funding Objectives

This RFP seeks to select 3-4 high schools that demonstrate strong commitment and readiness to implement Aviation and/or Drone programs. The grant opportunity will provide:

- Aviation and drone-related training equipment and supplies
- Investment in relevant educational software and simulation tools
- Professional development and certification for educators
- Support for curriculum enhancement and integration of aviation/drone technology into STEM courses

III. Eligibility

Eligible applicants include North Carolina public and charter high schools. Priority will be given to schools that present a clear administrative support, and sustainability plans for the program.

IV. Proposal Requirements

Each interested school must submit responses to questions (see section VII) addressing the following components:

1. **School and District Information:** Name, location, and current STEM/CTE offerings.
2. **Program Plan:** A description of how the funds will be used to establish or expand the Aviation/Drone program, including equipment needs, curriculum integration, and student engagement strategies.

3. **Professional Development Strategy:** A plan for training teachers, including certifications and partnerships with industry professionals.
4. **Sustainability Plan:** How the program will be maintained beyond the grant period, including community partnerships and future funding sources.
5. **Evaluation Metrics:** Clear goals and measurable outcomes for student participation and learning.

V. Submission Guidelines

- Proposals must be submitted via submission portal:
<https://www.ecsu.edu/academics/develop-aviation.php> by May 1, 2025.
Selected schools will be announced by May 10, 2025
- Schools may include letters of support (optional) from school/district administrators, industry partners, county officials, or local businesses. No more than 2 letters of support.

VI. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Strength and feasibility of the program plan (30%)
- Student engagement and hands-on training approach (30%)
- Long-term sustainability and impact (20%)
- Innovation and alignment with STEM education goals (20%)

VII. Proposal Evaluation Questions

Each competing school or school district must answer the following questions (50-150 words):

1. How will the proposed Aviation/Drone program or expansion align with your school's STEM and CTE curriculum?
2. What specific equipment and resources do you plan to acquire, and how will they support student learning?

3. How will you integrate hands-on aviation/drone activities into student learning experiences?
4. What strategies will you implement to ensure the program's long-term sustainability?
5. How will you measure the success and impact of the program on student engagement and career readiness?

For further inquiries, please contact:

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We look forward to your proposals and the opportunity to enhance aviation and drone education in North Carolina.