



## EXHIBIT B



## Step Up to STEM FAQs

### How much does the program cost?

The program's costs are covered by funding from Cisco Systems, the Anonymous Trust Foundation, and the Barber Fund for Underrepresented Minorities for STEM Leadership. Though the value is \$1,495, students who are accepted do not pay anything to attend the program.

### I have never participated in research or science labs before. Can I still be accepted into the program?

Yes, you can still be accepted into the program. Most 8th graders have not had the opportunity to do research. The best candidates for *Step Up to STEM* are students who are excited by the opportunity to participate in research and labs.

### How do I apply to the program?

The Step Up to STEM application portal is open from early December to mid February of each year. In order to access the application portal, click on the blue "APPLY" button that can be found on the right side of each page of the Step Up to STEM website. Please note that outside of the application season, the "APPLY" button will not appear on any of the pages of the Step Up to STEM website. For step-by-step instructions on how to apply, [click here](#).

### I have more than one child applying to Step Up to STEM. Can each child apply using the same log-in credentials?

Yes, each child can apply using the same log-in credentials. [Click here](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to submit multiple applications.

### I have forgotten my password for logging into the application system. How do I reset my password?

- Step 1: Go to the homepage of the site you're trying to access.
- Step 2: Click "Log In".
- Step 3: Underneath the Email/Password fields, click "Forgot your password?".
- Step 4: Enter the email address that you use to login to the site.
- Step 5: Click "Send Instructions".

### Step Up to STEM

- Admissions
- Student Life
- Step Up to STEM Handbook
- FAQs**

Download Step Up to STEM Flyer  
[pdf](#) (English)\_Summer 2023

Download Step Up to STEM Flyer  
[pdf](#) (Spanish)\_Summer 2023

### Key Dates for Summer 2023

**December 1, 2022:** Application portal opens

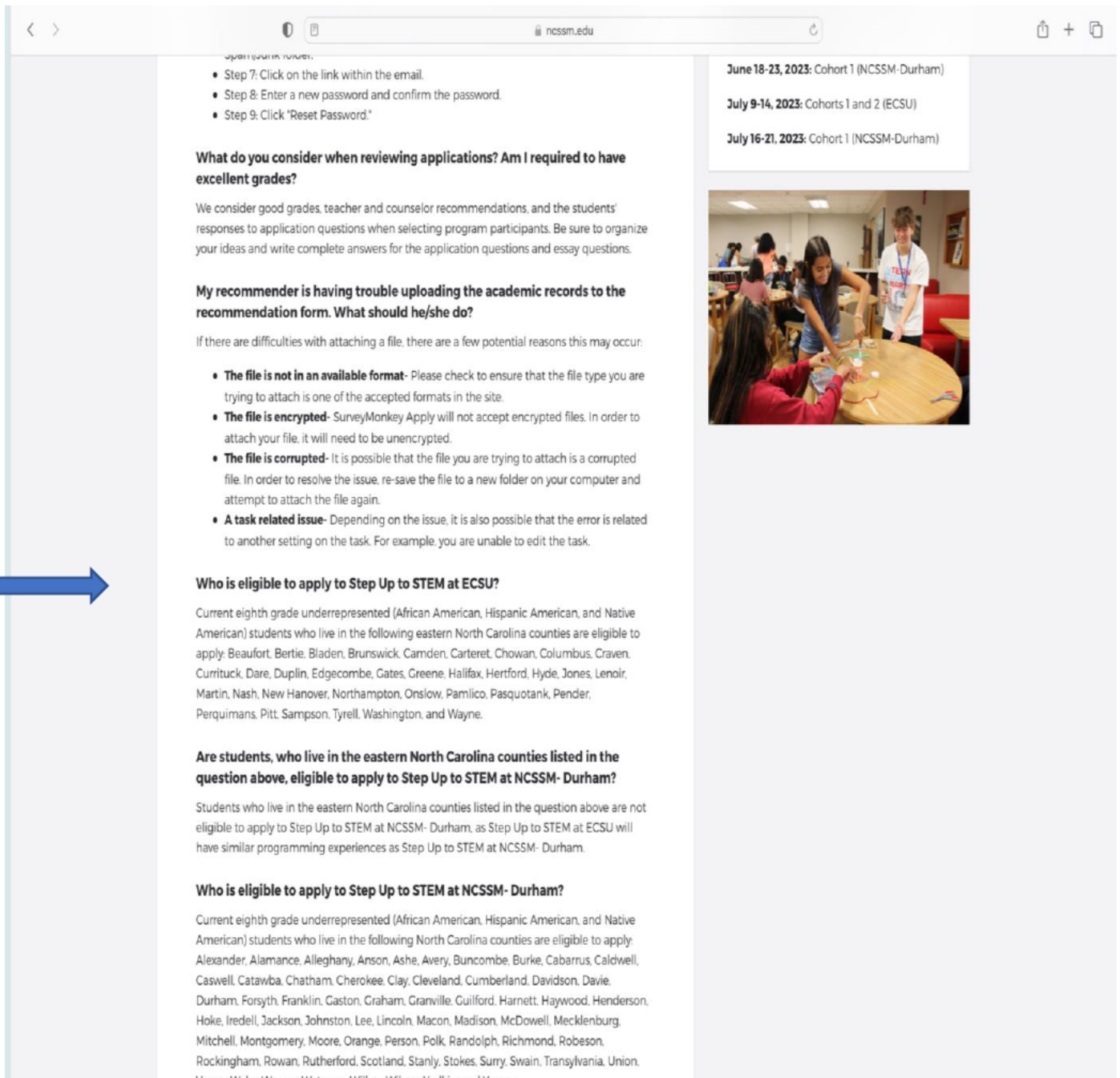
**January 19, 2023:** Step Up to STEM at ECSU Virtual Information Session (Registration is closed.)

**January 26, 2023:** Step Up to STEM at NCSSM-Durham Virtual Information Session (Registration is closed.)

**February 17, 2023:** Application portal closes

**March 28, 2023:** Acceptance decisions emailed





Step 7: Click on the link within the email.  
 Step 8: Enter a new password and confirm the password.  
 Step 9: Click "Reset Password."

**What do you consider when reviewing applications? Am I required to have excellent grades?**

We consider good grades, teacher and counselor recommendations, and the students' responses to application questions when selecting program participants. Be sure to organize your ideas and write complete answers for the application questions and essay questions.

**My recommender is having trouble uploading the academic records to the recommendation form. What should he/she do?**

If there are difficulties with attaching a file, there are a few potential reasons this may occur:

- **The file is not in an available format**- Please check to ensure that the file type you are trying to attach is one of the accepted formats in the site.
- **The file is encrypted**- SurveyMonkey Apply will not accept encrypted files. In order to attach your file, it will need to be unencrypted.
- **The file is corrupted**- It is possible that the file you are trying to attach is a corrupted file. In order to resolve the issue, re-save the file to a new folder on your computer and attempt to attach the file again.
- **A task related issue**- Depending on the issue, it is also possible that the error is related to another setting on the task. For example, you are unable to edit the task.

**Who is eligible to apply to Step Up to STEM at ECSU?**

Current eighth grade underrepresented (African American, Hispanic American, and Native American) students who live in the following eastern North Carolina counties are eligible to apply: Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Sampson, Tyrell, Washington, and Wayne.


**Are students, who live in the eastern North Carolina counties listed in the question above, eligible to apply to Step Up to STEM at NCSSM- Durham?**

Students who live in the eastern North Carolina counties listed in the question above are not eligible to apply to Step Up to STEM at NCSSM- Durham, as Step Up to STEM at ECSU will have similar programming experiences as Step Up to STEM at NCSSM- Durham.

**Who is eligible to apply to Step Up to STEM at NCSSM- Durham?**

Current eighth grade underrepresented (African American, Hispanic American, and Native American) students who live in the following North Carolina counties are eligible to apply: Alexander, Alamance, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Graham, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hoke, Iredell, Jackson, Johnston, Lee, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Orange, Person, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Watauga, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin, and Yancey.

**June 18-23, 2023:** Cohort 1 (NCSSM-Durham)  
**July 9-14, 2023:** Cohorts 1 and 2 (ECSU)  
**July 16-21, 2023:** Cohort 1 (NCSSM-Durham)



< > ncssm.edu

**above, eligible to apply to Step Up to STEM at ECSU?**

Students who live in the North Carolina counties listed in the question above are not eligible to apply to Step Up to STEM at ECSU, as Step Up to STEM at NCSSM- Durham will have similar programming experiences as Step Up to STEM at ECSU.

**If I am not accepted this year, may I reapply next year?**

Only current 8th graders can apply to the program. Students who are accepted into and complete the program as rising 9th graders are the only ones who are offered a spot to return for a second year of programming as rising 10th graders.

**If I am not accepted, what other options do I have to attend a summer program affiliated with NCSSM?**

Students can also apply to Summer Accelerator, which offers programs at NCSSM- Durham, NCSSM- Morganton, and online. Although it does cost to attend Summer Accelerator, financial aid and scholarships are available. [Click here to learn more information about Summer Accelerator.](#)

**Will I receive a certificate of completion?**

Yes, all participants will receive a certificate of completion.

**How large are the classes?**

Each class will have approximately 16 students.

**Will I be able to use the summer academics program on my college applications and on an application to NCSSM?**

Yes, students will be able to use the summer academics program on college applications and on an application to NCSSM.

**What are your procedures regarding cell phones?**

Students may not use cell phones when they are in class or participating in organized programs and activities.

**Am I required to bring a laptop?**

If you have a laptop, please bring it. Otherwise, you can request a laptop in the parent comments form of the application and one will be provided.

**How do I get to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics?**

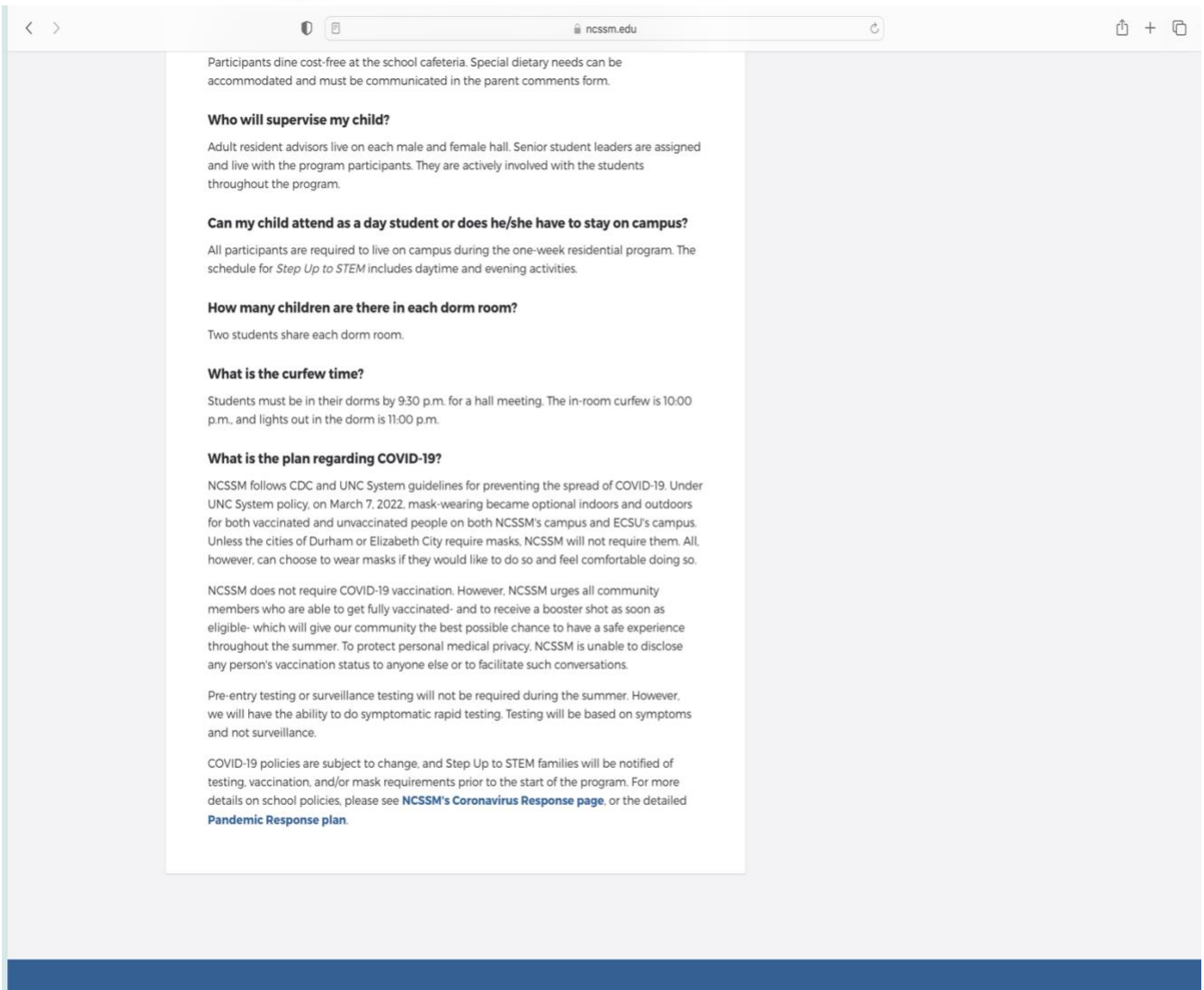
Visit the NCSSM Contact Information page - [Here!](#)

**How do I get to Elizabeth City State University?**

Visit Elizabeth City State University's page - [Here!](#)

**Where will I eat? Can you make accommodations for special dietary needs?**

Participants dine cost-free at the school cafeteria. Special dietary needs can be



Participants dine cost-free at the school cafeteria. Special dietary needs can be accommodated and must be communicated in the parent comments form.

**Who will supervise my child?**

Adult resident advisors live on each male and female hall. Senior student leaders are assigned and live with the program participants. They are actively involved with the students throughout the program.

**Can my child attend as a day student or does he/she have to stay on campus?**

All participants are required to live on campus during the one-week residential program. The schedule for *Step Up to STEM* includes daytime and evening activities.

**How many children are there in each dorm room?**

Two students share each dorm room.

**What is the curfew time?**

Students must be in their dorms by 9:30 p.m. for a hall meeting. The in-room curfew is 10:00 p.m., and lights out in the dorm is 11:00 p.m.

**What is the plan regarding COVID-19?**

NCSM follows CDC and UNC System guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Under UNC System policy, on March 7, 2022, mask-wearing became optional indoors and outdoors for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people on both NCSM's campus and ECSU's campus. Unless the cities of Durham or Elizabeth City require masks, NCSM will not require them. All, however, can choose to wear masks if they would like to do so and feel comfortable doing so.

NCSM does not require COVID-19 vaccination. However, NCSM urges all community members who are able to get fully vaccinated- and to receive a booster shot as soon as eligible- which will give our community the best possible chance to have a safe experience throughout the summer. To protect personal medical privacy, NCSM is unable to disclose any person's vaccination status to anyone else or to facilitate such conversations.

Pre-entry testing or surveillance testing will not be required during the summer. However, we will have the ability to do symptomatic rapid testing. Testing will be based on symptoms and not surveillance.

COVID-19 policies are subject to change, and Step Up to STEM families will be notified of testing, vaccination, and/or mask requirements prior to the start of the program. For more details on school policies, please see [NCSM's Coronavirus Response page](#), or the detailed [Pandemic Response plan](#).