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**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: Lt. Governor Burt Jones Announces STEM Funding for Maysville Elementary for STEAM Storybus Project  
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OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**BURT**  **JONES**

*Georgia's 13th Lt. Governor*

## **Lt. Governor Burt Jones Announces STEM Funding for Maysville Elementary for STEAM Storybus Project**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

MAYSVILLE, GA | Maysville Elementary will receive support for its STEM programming this year, following the announcement by Lt. Governor Burt Jones that the school is a recipient of the NLGA Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program! NLGA has awarded the school \$1,000 as part of a national call for applications for funding STEM programming and curriculum in schools.

"Promoting and encouraging STEM and STEAM activities in schools from a young age is critical to preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow," said Lt. Governor Jones. "Maysville Elementary's unique approach to combining STEM concepts, literacy, and arts in a fun Storybus format is sure to capture the imaginations of students."

The STEAM Storybus is a hybrid mobile classroom/library that will fill needs for literacy improvement and a STEAM specials class at Maysville Elementary School. A teacher-on-special-assignment assigned to the bus will engage students in cross-disciplinary learning experiences that connect literacy with other content areas like science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM). Literacy is a particular need at Maysville Elementary where, for example, 66% of 4th-graders were

reading below grade-level on the 2022 state assessment. The school also does not qualify for a full STEAM specials class like other district schools because of Maysville's smaller student population.

NLGA opened the application period for the STEM Scholarship Program in May 2023. The application process was competitive, with NLGA receiving 150 requests for STEM funding from schools in 19 states. Twelve schools in 12 states were awarded \$500 - \$1,000 for STEM-related expenses.

“As the seconds-in-command in state and territorial government, lieutenant governors are uniquely poised to lead on STEM education,” said NLGA Executive Director Julia Brossart. “By supporting STEM-related activities in schools across the country, we can encourage a long-term interest and passion in STEM education in America’s youth.”

The Scholarship Program is administered by NLGA, the nonpartisan, nonprofit association for the nation’s seconds-in-command, and sponsored by ACT, the education and career readiness nonprofit.

“While nearly half of ACT-tested high school graduates have considerable interest in STEM, fewer than 30% of all students go on to declare a STEM major in college. At the same time, we are seeing alarming declines in math scores nationwide,” said Janet Godwin, CEO of ACT. “Quality STEM education is critical for students to be successful in a globally competitive economy. As we continue our meaningful support of the NLGA Lt. Governors’ STEM Scholarship Program, we urgently support strong STEM education so that students can fulfill their potential equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in work and life.”

Public, private, and tribal schools in the 50 states and five U.S. territories were invited to apply for funding to support STEM-related activities, programming, curriculum, equipment, and other expenses. Funding will be provided to all winning schools in early September.

Additional information on the STEM Scholarship Program can be found at <https://nlga.us/strategies/nlga-state-strategies-in-stem/>.

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