



# EAST<sup>®</sup> INITIATIVE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is EAST?

EAST is education accelerated by service and technology. A nonprofit organization that offers and supports a unique model of education to schools throughout the country. EAST thrives on innovation and collaboration and encourages students, facilitators, and community members to be lifelong learners.

### EAST History

EAST was piloted at Greenbrier High School in Greenbrier, AR (Faulkner County) during the 1995–1996 school year. Almost 25 years ago our founder, Timothy Stephenson, a second-career educator with a law enforcement background, laid the foundation for EAST while working with at-risk students who were struggling or underachieving in the traditional classroom atmosphere. He created an alternative environment utilizing self-directed, project-based learning, allowing the students to choose and create their projects according to their interests.

### What is the difference between EAST the non-profit and EAST in the schools?

The EAST<sup>®</sup> Initiative is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization located on Ranch Drive in Little Rock. EAST works with schools to develop, install, and maintain EAST programs. In those schools, EAST is a unique educational learning experience that is customized to each school and its community. The EAST Initiative provides technical assistance, workshops, and seminars, and some underwriting to empower the schools, the EAST facilitators and EAST students toward customized, collaborative learning and teaching.

### What is EAST's Mission, Vision, and Principles?

Mission: EAST provides all learners the opportunity to have relevant, individualized, life-changing educational experiences.

Vision: Our vision is a world where communities are strengthened through service and technology.

EAST has four principles:



**Service-based learning**



**Technology-driven**



**Student-led**



**Collaborative**



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We believe that all learners – when provided with the right tools – can create and apply usable solutions to actual situations and issues. We want communities to prosper. Hard work and dedication – coupled with technology and the knowledge to use that technology effectively – are vital to the effort.

## What is EAST known for?

EAST is opportunity. We believe that all learners, when presented with the right tools, can achieve. By offering training, support, grants, and development to students and educators, EAST serves as both a provider of and advocates for innovative education



**Arkansas Business Nonprofit of the Year 2018**



**Silicon Valley Education Award for STEM Innovation**

## Annual EAST Conference

Each March, the EAST network convenes for a three day celebration of hardwork and achievement. At the EAST Conference, students not only get to celebrate the successes of the school year, but they learn to network, sharpen their leadership skills and — most of all — be inspired to continue to be the change they want to see in the world.

## How is EAST funded?

Funding for EAST comes from a variety of national, statewide and local sources. The EAST Initiative has fantastic partnerships and sponsorships with iconic brands that provide EAST programs and students with experiences and technology they might not otherwise have access to. Grants from the Arkansas Department of Education are integral to the establishment of EAST programs in Arkansas schools. Then, many of the individual EAST programs get donors and supporters to help underwrite student projects. The funding sources that support EAST are as diverse as the EAST programs themselves!



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## What other services and activities are apart of EAST?

### Training

We live our mission in the classrooms of individual schools and in the training sessions and professional development opportunities we host in our Little Rock-based office. Training is hosted for EAST students, their facilitators, administrators, and learners not affiliated with an individual EAST program.

### Space rentals

Looking for a facility to hold a meeting or training? We have a variety of spaces available for members of the EAST network and surrounding community to use. Contact us today!

## How many people work for EAST?

The EAST network currently spans four states and serves over 25,000 students, guides hundreds of facilitators and administrators, and is maintained by nearly 30 staff members located in Little Rock, Arkansas. The integrity of the organization is preserved by 15 Board of Directors; a diverse group of talented individuals who volunteer their time and talents to make sure we keep producing well-rounded and productive change agents.

## EAST Lingo

**Community Partner** - An organization or individual benefitting from services provided by students in EAST or performing a service to further the experience of students in EAST.

**Education Unleashed** - Training sessions for community learners around technology and professional development.

**Facilitator** - A trained educator who guides students through a developmental journey inside an EAST environment.

**Stakeholder** - A non-school, non-staff person or organization that has a vested interest in seeing EAST implemented successfully.

**Vision Building** - Annual informational workshop for individuals looking to establish an EAST program and learn about the ADE EAST Grant.

## How Do I Get EAST ? Click Here!

Stay Connected With Us!

