**NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program**

**Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program**

**Letter of Support Guidelines**

A student that you know is applying for the Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program (SYSEAP), offered through the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer.

This program funds high school students to enhance their STEM learning opportunities and ensures equitable access to an eligible activity, regardless of their circumstances, background, or location.

The Assessment Panel will review this Letter as part of the SYSEAP application, and it will help the Panel select applications that best demonstrate a student’s equity and/or access circumstances.

The equity and/or access information you provide has a criteria weighting worth 20% of the overall application assessment.

**Eligibility for SYSEAP**

SYSEAP aims to maximise STEM education opportunities for NSW high school students who are:

* experiencing financial hardship
* from a low socio-economic background
* from regional or remote locations
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
* living with a disability and/or disorder
* from any other backgrounds that might need support.

An applicant can apply to SYSEAP if a student they represent identifies with one or more of the above equity and/or access circumstance.

**The intended outcomes of the Program are to:**

* provide opportunities for a diverse sector of students to develop essential skills such as teamwork, collaboration, creativity, communication, and technical science and engineering knowledge
* help students to explore their potential, expand their perspectives, and future ambitions
* build participation from students under-represented in STEM education and related industries.

**Who can complete the Letter of Support?**

* This Letter of Support must be completed by a responsible person outside of the student’s family who is aware of their personal and family circumstances. This might be a mentor, teacher, school counsellor, careers advisors, or social worker.
* If the Letter of Support is completed by someone outside of the student’s school, it must be endorsed by a relevant teacher, advisor or Principal from their school. If the student is home schooled, please contact raap.grants@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au about how to endorse this Letter of Support.
* We recommend that you review the SYSEAP Guidelines on the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer’s website before completing this Letter of Support:  [https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/stem-outreach/stem-grants/supporting-young-scientists-equity-and-access-program.](https://www.chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au/funding/science-education/supporting-young-scientists-program.)
* Please return this Letter of Support as a PDF file to the student or the applicant who is representing them.
* Your statement is crucial for verifying the applicant's claims about the student and is given significant weight during panel assessment deliberations.
* **Note: The SYSEAP application is incomplete and cannot be submitted without this Letter of Support.** If you are unable to complete it, please notify the student immediately, so that they can contact an alternative support person.

**NSW Research Attraction and Acceleration Program**

**Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program**

**Letter of Support**

This letter confirms support for the student selected to participate in the Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program application for

Click or tap here to enter text.

|  |
| --- |
| **Your details** |
| Your name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Phone number | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Position | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organisation/school | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Student applicant** |
| Student name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How long have you known the student? | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**What is your relationship with the student?**

Click or tap here to enter text.

The Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program aims to maximise STEM education opportunities for NSW high school students who are:

* from remote or regional areas
* from a low socio-economic background
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
* living with a disability and/or disorder
* from any other backgrounds that might need support.

**Statement of Support**

Please outline your understanding of any *equity and/or access* circumstances that the student is experiencing. The information you provide has a criteria weighting worth 20% of the overall application assessment.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Declaration**

I understand that the information provided in my application will remain confidential and used by the NSW Government only for the purposes of assessing the application, evaluating the performance of funding awarded under the Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program and evaluating the performance of the Supporting Young Scientists Equity and Access Program.

[ ] Yes

I declare that I have obtained the consent of all persons, whose Personal Information (as defined by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 NSW) has been included in this Letter of Support, to provide that information to the NSW Government.

[ ] Yes

Insert signature

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Position title: Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap to enter a date.

**School endorsement**

“I, Click or tap here to enter text. acknowledge that I have read and endorse the contents of this Letter of Support.

I confirm that the student named in the letter attends Click or tap here to enter text.

Insert signature

Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Position title: Click or tap here to enter text.

School: Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap to enter a date.