Additional Guidelines for Path 3

# **The OpenSciEd Logo**

# **OpenSciEd Field Testing Background**

Massachusetts is collaborating with local educators, national experts, and other states education agencies in order to create a robust, research-based, middle school science curriculum that will become a freely available Open Educational Resource, called [OpenSciEd](https://www.openscied.org/openscied/?).

This curriculum will be:

1. aligned to state standards that are based on the [National Academy of Science’s *Framework*](https://www.nap.edu/catalog/13165/a-framework-for-k-12-science-education-practices-crosscutting-concepts);
2. based on current best practices on how students learn and how teachers teach;
3. built with educative components to support the development of teacher content and pedagogical knowledge and to enhance enactment;
4. designed to be used with low-cost, readily available laboratory equipment and materials amenable to large-scale deployment;
5. extensively tested by teachers and schools; and
6. improved over time.

# **The Role of Field Testing**

The OpenSciEd team is committed to the development of instructional materials that achieve rigorous standards and are practical to implement across the range of classrooms. To achieve these ambitious goals, the instructional materials must be thoroughly tested for both effectiveness and practicality.

In these field tests, teachers will have the opportunity to provide direct feedback to the curriculum developers. In addition, data will be collected that will help developers make decisions about what to revise in the existing materials and how to revise them.

Teachers who are selected for these field tests will participate in professional development workshops to prepare them to implement the curriculum and will have access to online learning resources throughout the field test.

# **2019-2020 Field Test**

The 2019-2020 school year will be the second year of field testing for the OpenSciEd instructional materials. There will be 6 new units (2 per grade level) available for field testing. The units will be designed for 4 weeks in length (but usually take longer for the first implementation). Twelve teachers from each grade level (grades 6-8) will be selected to participate in the field test from MA. As part of the field test, teachers will be expected to participate in two professional development sessions (July/August 2019 and January 2020), implement two units, and contribute data to the field test team.

**The schedule for the year will consist of:**

*Summer professional development workshop*. Teachers will participate in a 4-day summer workshop at Boston College during a week in July or August (TBD). Highly experienced professional development facilitators will lead the workshops. These workshops will focus on the shifts in teaching that the 2016 STE Curriculum Frameworks require, and how those shifts are implemented in the specific instructional units they will be implementing.

*Fall unit implementation.* Teachers will implement the first unit during the fall semester. Prior to and during that implementation, they will have access to online professional learning activities (e.g., webinars), to planning and learning resources, and to an online community supported by their professional development facilitator. During the implementation, they will complete periodic surveys seeking their feedback and collect copies of student work.

*Winter professional development workshop.* Teachers will participate in a 2-day winter workshop during the month of January. This workshop will expand upon the summer workshop with a focus on the second unit.

*Spring unit implementation*. In the spring semester, teachers will implement the second unit, with the same types of support, feedback procedures, and data collection process.

**Districts who participated in the first round of field testing will have priority. Districts who have small numbers of teachers interested in participating should collaborate with another district to submit an application together.**

**Massachusetts districts applying for *High-Quality Instruction – Summer Planning Grants Path 3* should:**

* Budget for a total grant award of $10,000;
  + No greater than $6,000 of funds may be dedicated to materials and supplies (see additional detail document below); and
  + No greater than $499 of funds may be dedicated to administrative costs; and
  + Up to 100% of funds may be dedicated to teacher stipends.