

Louisiana Believes

OpenSciEd Purchasing and Professional Development

This document provides schools and school systems an overview of OpenSciEd, information on purchasing materials and information about professional development. Please send questions and feedback to STEM@la.gov.

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Overview of OpenSciEd

OpenSciEd is an effort among science educators, curriculum developers, teachers and philanthropic foundations to improve the supply of and demand for high-quality K-12 science instructional materials by producing open-sourced, freely available instructional materials designed for college and career-ready science standards. OpenSciEd works with classroom educators, experienced science curriculum developers, individual school districts, education non-profit Achieve, and the science education community to create and pilot robust, research-based, open-source science instructional materials.

Field Testing and Release of Units

Ten partner states volunteered to join this effort including: California, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Washington. After the initial development of the OpenSciEd units, the unit prototypes or **field test units** undergo rigorous external review and robust field-testing in participating classrooms across partner states. The field test units are revised based on the feedback and data collected. The revised or **complete** units are submitted to NextGenScience Peer Review Panel and made freely and openly available to the public upon earning a quality rating.

Middle School

The [full middle school program](#) is now freely available for download on the OpenSciEd website or for purchase through certified partners. Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd for Grades [6](#), [7](#), and [8](#) provide guidance to assist middle school teachers with implementation and include sample scope and sequences. The OpenSciEd units may include performance expectations from previous or future grade levels. These units are intentionally designed to provide students the opportunity to incrementally make sense of phenomena to build understanding and abilities over time through a coherent storyline. Modification to the sequence or content of lessons within units should be approached with caution and careful consideration. Guidance for modification can be found in the Teacher Background section of each unit.

High School

OpenSciEd is developing a [three course sequence for high-school](#), which began in January of 2021 with plans to release the complete sequence of all three courses by January of 2024. All ten partner states that participated in the middle school field test, including Louisiana, have volunteered to join this effort. In an effort to provide our Louisiana teachers with early access to high quality high school materials, schools and systems interested in committing to the pilot for the first round of units in the 2022-2023 school year can receive information about professional learning opportunities and materials acquisition. Due to the nature of the pilot, these opportunities are limited and the Department is providing wraparound support to ensure successful implementation for interested school systems.

For questions or additional information on the OpenSciEd high school pilot, contact STEM@la.gov.

OpenSciEd Middle School Materials: Access and Purchasing Information

Systems interested in the high school pilot should contact STEM@la.gov for information about materials access and purchasing.

Educators piloting OpenSciEd for middle school may download the open source [digital files](#) and purchase print materials and kits from participating vendors as outlined below.

Print Materials

Printed Teacher and Student Editions are available for purchase from [Kendall Hunt](#).

Kits: Laboratory Equipment and Other Scientific Supplies

Kit materials can be sourced independently by systems using the [materials lists](#) for each unit or purchased from [Aquaphoenix](#) or [ECA](#).

OpenSciEd Middle School Professional Development Vendors

Systems interested in the high school pilot should contact STEM@la.gov for information about professional learning opportunities.

Teachers are better positioned to support students' meaningful growth when they have access to initial and on-going professional development that helps them utilize quality curriculum effectively. OpenSciEd materials are freely accessible online. However, we highly recommend that all teachers participating in the pilot undergo at minimum, an **Initial OpenSciEd Training**, which is designed to build teachers' familiarity with the structure, approach, and key components of the curriculum. The following professional development providers are staffed with qualified facilitators who have received official training from OpenSciEd.

OpenSciEd PD Provider	Contact Information
OpenSciEd	Professional Learning Page ; Request a Quote
Louisiana Tech SciTEC	Diane Madden; dmadden@latech.edu ; 318-257-2866
TNTP	Mary Jones; mary.jones@tntp.org ; 415-577-4342
Michigan Math and Science Leadership Network	Mary Star; starrm@mimathandscience.org
Side-by-Side Strategies	Cathi Cox-Boniol; ccb91110@gmail.com ; 318-268-7558
BSCS	BSCS Professional Learning ; Jody Bintz (Professional Learning Division)
NextGen Science Storylines	nextgensciorylines@gmail.com
University of Texas at Austin Charles A. Dana Center	Ledoux, Shelly M; shelly.ledoux@austin.utexas.edu
Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance	kcook@mmsa.org

Certified Partners

In addition to open source, freely available files on their website, systems can purchase fully packaged versions of OpenSciEd from [certified partners](#).

Ongoing Implementation Support

The Department will communicate OpenSciEd open enrollment events through [Teacher Leader Newsletters](#) and [Academic Content and Educator Development Calls](#). Additionally, the Department holds a monthly call for OpenSciEd Pilot Updates. The call takes place on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m., and a call summary with important links are added to the invite after each call. To be added to this monthly call, contact STEM@la.gov.