



Hands-on and phenomena-based

Based on a “science storyline,” OSE provides connected lessons which build students’ understanding of real-world phenomena.



Coherent NGSS aligned sequence

With 18 units across grades 6-8, OSE offers a sequence that provides full alignment to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).



Innovative instructional routines

With driving question boards, scientist circles, and 3D assessments, students in OSE classrooms lead the inquiry process and their learning.



The MA OSE Cohort Program provides schools with financial resources & on-the-ground support for OSE’s middle school science curriculum

As a member of the cohort, schools are provided:

- Grant funding to offset training and durable equipment costs
- Implementation support
- Priority access to in-state OSE training
- Additional professional learning resources & student programming (e.g., coaching, learning communities, and student industry showcases)



To participate, schools develop a three-year implementation plan that ensures:

- Full OSE curriculum adoption (all 18 units across grades 6-8)
- Whole school participation – 100% of students and teachers
- Robust teacher training – all science teachers train in 4 units each
- Teacher leader champions lead the work at the school level



Applications due February 12, 2021

Visit mass-stemhub.org/OSE-ma to apply

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When are applications due?** Applications are due February 12, 2021
- 2. How do I apply?** To apply for the program, please visit www.mass-stemhub.org/OSE-ma to access the online application.
- 3. Which schools are eligible to apply?** There are two eligibility criteria for the grant opportunity. Schools must be in districts with at least 15% of students designated as economically disadvantaged. Additionally, schools must have students in grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Schools that include students in grades 6-8 but also include students in additional grades are eligible to apply, as well as schools that include at least one of these grades.
- 4. What if my school participated in the pilot, are we still eligible?** Yes! Schools that participated in the OSE pilot are still eligible to apply – we would love to have you in the cohort! Grant funding cannot be used on equipment and training already covered under the pilot but any new units and teacher training is fair game. Schools are still eligible to receive funding for units which were only in “Beta” during the Pilot.
- 5. Can a grant span more than one year?** Grants are awarded for a period of three years. Schools can build out their own implementation plan
- 6. How are grant sizes determined? What can grant funding be used for?** Grant funding is intended to support high-quality adoption of OpenSciEd curricular resources and more specifically intended to offset the costs associated with launching the program. Schools will be provided three payments over three years (delivered electronically) and schools will pay vendors directly. Grant awards sizes are determined by school size and based on two key start-up costs
 - 1. teacher training:** all teachers trained in up to four units each
 - 2. durable equipment kits:** schools can receive up to \$400 per unit per teacher (for all six units)
- 7. I thought OpenSciEd was free and open source – what do I need a grant for?** OSE is an open source curriculum that is free and available for download. The grant program is designed to support schools to go beyond just downloading curriculum and instead support teachers and leaders as they adopt and implement this cutting-edge innovative science curriculum. Grants provide for teacher training, including the foundational OSE PD that introduces teachers to the OSE storyline approach and allows teachers to experience the different “routines” that the curriculum depends on. Teachers who have helped to pilot and inform the creation of OSE report that the training is essential to be able to lead an effective OSE classroom. In addition, the units also include many hands-on student experiences that require equipment and materials. In addition to funding for training, the grant also offers an allowance for durable equipment costs.
- 8. Can my school request additional funding for teachers to complete more training?** The grant is designed to provide financial support for science teachers to complete 4 units of training. This decision is based on feedback from educators who participated the OSE pilot. The grant also provides for teacher-leader champions at each grade level to complete training for units 5 & 6 and for a school or district leader to complete facilitator training with the intention of supporting other science teachers in the building on those units. Additionally, we will be working to create asynchronous resources to support teachers on all units. If schools would like teachers to complete official training in units 5 and/or 6 or training additional, non-science teachers, in the units they will need to use local funding.
- 9. The grant covers training for 4 units per teacher, what about the kits? Is it only 4 kits per teacher or 6 per teacher?** Schools can seek durable kit funding for all six units per teacher at each grade level. In the instance where teachers teach across multiple grade levels, they need only train in 4 units, but can seek kit support for all units that they teach (e.g., if a teacher teaches 6th and 7th grade, they would train in a total of 4 units across the two grade levels and could seek financial support for all 12 units, 6 per grade level, that they teach).
- 10. What makes an application competitive?** The MA OpenSciEd Cohort Program seeks to partner with schools that are committed to full OSE adoption – to rethinking and reimagining science education for their middle school students and teachers. Competitive applications demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to OSE’s instructional approach and outline a sensible implementation plan that, within three years, allows all students to complete 6 OSE units per year.
- 11. How should I plan for rolling out units and pacing teacher training? Do I have to do everything all at once?** Schools have up to three years to fully build out their OpenSciEd programs. Based on our experience with the pilot and learnings from pilot educators in Massachusetts, we recommend starting with ALL teachers in year 1 and having them each train in two units, then adding two more units at each grade level in year two, and the remaining two units at each grade level in year 3. That said, schools are only required to start with 1/3 of their teachers training/offering two units each in year 1. Check out our recommended implementation path (www.mass-stemhub.org/OSE-ma). The expectation that all students and teacher participate is over a three-year period.
- 12. Can we edit our application after it has been submitted?** The portal allows you to login and make adjustments at any point in the process before clicking “Submit.”