OpenSciEd Releases Complete Open Source Middle School Science Curriculum

*Developed by world-class science curriculum developers in partnership with 10 states for grades 6-8, the curriculum is Designed for the Next Generation Science Standards and freely available*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (March 2, 2022)---OpenSciEd, an effort led by 10 partner states, science educators, curriculum developers, and philanthropic organizations to improve the supply of and demand for high-quality K12 science materials, announced the public release of its freely available middle school science program. The three years of classroom materials are comprised of 18 units of instruction and have been externally evaluated by NextGenScience at WestEd and are listed as examples of quality materials on [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org). Among the reasons OpenSciEd stands out from other Open Education Resources is that they also offer freely available professional learning materials, such as facilitator guides, slide deck, videos, etc. to accompany every unit.

“Over 33,000 educators have already registered with OpenSciEd to download, inspect, and begin using the materials at the unit level. It is a privilege to work with state science leaders, world class learning scientists and curriculum writers, teachers, and students to make these materials available to all districts, schools, teachers, and students,” said Jim Ryan, Executive Director of OpenSciEd. “We are encouraged by the generous philanthropic support to make this possible from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.”

OpenSciEd brings together leadership from states and world-class science curriculum developers from BSCS Science Learning, Northwestern University, Boston College, University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Colorado Boulder to make freely available classroom and professional learning materials for every teacher. All the materials were field tested in hundreds of classrooms in partner states: California, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Washington, and revised based upon the feedback from teachers and students. Over the last three years, 260 middle school science teachers in 100 school districts across the 10 partner states participated in field testing the program with almost 16,000 students.

The cornerstone of the OpenSciEd approach is that every unit is designed around a phenomenon that students figure out by working through the underlying science with the strategic guidance of their teacher. The materials have been designed to foster deep engagement and support collaborative learning. They have been explicitly designed to provide equitable learning opportunities to students of different backgrounds. Through a careful process of weaving activities into unit storylines, the developers have
created a program that covers all of the ideas, practices, and concepts called for in middle school by the Next Generation Science Standards.

“The release of OpenSciEd’s 18th and final unit of the OpenSciEd Middle School Science Program is a momentous occasion for science education and the culmination of a monumental task for the developers consortium,” said Daniel Edelson, Ph.D., Executive Director at BSCS Science Learning who led the consortium. “In the field tests leading up to this release, we have been overwhelmed by the response, particularly from teachers who report that they are seeing impressive results from students who they wouldn’t have been able to reach with traditional programs.”

OpenSciEd instructional materials are freely available for download in both screen and print-ready PDFs as well as editable google docs, allowing teachers, schools and districts more flexibility. OpenSciEd’s mission is to eliminate as many barriers as possible for teachers and students to access and use high-quality materials and has partnered with full program distributors, printers, and kit providers to offer a variety of ways to access and/or purchase classroom materials. OpenSciEd also supports a network of certified professional learning providers who can support school and district adoptions with high quality services.

“OpenSciEd’s release of the full middle school program is a significant step in the effort to support the important and necessary growth in science education,” said Jim Short, Program Director at Carnegie Corporation of New York. “We are gratified by the response of our philanthropic partners to support this initiative and we all look forward to OpenSciEd’s release of high-quality science instructional materials for elementary and high schools”

About OpenSciEd
OpenSciEd was launched in 2018 as a nonprofit to address the need among teachers and school districts for high-quality, open-source, full-course science instructional materials, as well as curriculum-based professional learning materials to support the implementation of middle school science instructional units as a result of the adoption of the National Research Council’s document, A Framework for K-12 Science Education and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

For more information about OpenSciEd, please visit our website at www.OpenSciEd.org