



Louisiana Believes

Louisiana Guide to Piloting OpenSciEd: Grade 6

This document provides guidance to assist grade 6 teachers with the field-testing of OpenSciEd units. This guidance document is considered a “living” document, as we believe that teachers and other educators will find ways to improve the document as they use it. Please send feedback to STEM@la.gov so that we may use your input when updating this guide.

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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-profits, 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** underwent rigorous external review and robust field-testing in participating classrooms across partner states including seven Louisiana systems. The field test units were then revised based on the feedback and data collected and submitted to NextGenScience Peer Review Panel before being made freely and openly available to the public upon earning a quality rating. The entire middle school program (18 units total) is now available to download for free online.

Unit Design & Sample Scope and Sequence

The units in the OpenSciEd Sample Scope and Sequence include bundles of performance expectations that are built around an anchor phenomenon. 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 these units could undermine the design, and therefore is not recommended and should be approached with caution and careful consideration.

Contact

For questions or requests for additional information on the OpenSciEd initiative and/or materials, contact info@openscienced.org.

Sample Scope and Sequence

	Unit 1 Light and Matter OpenSciEd 6.1	Unit 2 Contact Forces OpenSciEd 8.1	Unit 3 Sound Waves OpenSciEd 8.2	Unit 4 Forces at a Distance OpenSciEd 8.3	Unit 5 Earth in Space OpenSciEd 8.4	Unit 6 Cells and Systems OpenSciEd 6.6
Unit Question	Why do we sometimes see different things when looking at the same object?	Why do things sometimes get damaged when they hit each other?	How can a sound make something move?	How can a magnet move another object without touching it?	Why do we see patterns in the sky, and what else is out there that we can't see?	How do living things heal?
Standards	6-PS4-2*	6-PS2-1 6-PS2-2 6-PS3-1	6-PS4-1 6-PS4-2*	6-PS2-3 6-PS2-5 6-PS3-2	6-ESS1-1 6-ESS1-2 6-ESS1-3 6-PS2-4 6-PS4-2* 8-LS4-3	6-LS1-1 6-LS1-2 7-LS1-3*
Unit Resources	Complete Unit	Complete Unit	Complete Unit	Complete Unit	Complete Unit	Complete Unit
Additional Resources	Distance Learning (complete unit) Optional Pacing	Distance Learning (field test version) Optional Pacing	Distance Learning Optional Pacing	Distance Learning Optional Pacing	Distance Learning (field test version)	Distance Learning (field test version)

†6-PS1-1, 6-LS2-1, 6-LS2-2, L-LS2-3, & 6-ESS3-4 are not addressed by the Grade 6 OpenSciEd units. The performance expectation can be addressed by incorporating the [Grade 6 Louisiana Sample Scope and Sequence](#) and/or Chapters 1-4 of [Disruptions in Ecosystems Alternative Unit](#) as needed.

*The performance expectation is partially addressed using the identified phenomenon and is addressed in multiple units.

LDOE Formative Assessment Resources

Created by Louisiana educators to support formative assessment in the classroom, the Department has released a library of discrete items and item sets correlated to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science. These items, along with LEAP 2025 Practice Test Items, may be used in conjunction with guidance from high-quality curriculum as opportunities for students to demonstrate what they have learned. LDOE Formative Assessment Resources can be found on the [K-12 Science Planning](#) webpage.

Unit	Discrete Items	Item Sets and Practice Test Items
Light and Matter OpenSciEd 6.1	Spectral Signature (6-MS-PS4-2) Telescopes (6-MS-PS4-2)	Items Coming Soon
Contact Forces OpenSciEd 8.1	Satellite (6-MS-PS2-1) Shin Guard Design (6-MS-PS2-1) Soccer Ball (6-MS-PS2-2) Juan's Skateboard (6-MS-PS2-2) Sports Balls (6-MS-PS3-1)	Bowling (6-MS-PS3-1, 6-MS-PS2-2)
Sound Waves OpenSciEd 8.2	Trials (6-MS-PS4-1) Reverberation (6-MS-PS4-1)	Ocean Waves (6-MS-PS4-1)
Forces at a Distance OpenSciEd 8.3	Electric Motor (6-MS-PS2-3) Gr6 Moons (6-MS-PS2-4) Popcorn (6-MS-PS2-5)	Marbles (6-MS-PS3-1, 6-MS-PS3-2) Changes in the Earth's Magnetic Field (6-MS-PS2-3, 6-MS-PS2-5)
Earth in Space OpenSciEd 8.4	Moons (6-MS-ESS1-1) Midnight_Sun (6-MS-ESS1-1) Spitzer (6-MS-ESS1-2)	Dwarf Planets (6-MS-ESS1-3) Asteroids in the Solar System (6-MS-ESS1-2, 6-MS-ESS1-3)

Unit	Discrete Items	Item Sets and Practice Test Items
Cells and Systems OpenSciEd 6.6	Gr6 Minerals (6-MS-LS1-1) Models (6-MS-PS1-1) Slugs and Chloroplast (6-MS-LS1-2) Plant Cells (6-MS-LS1-2)	Organelles (6-MS-LS1-1, 6-MS-LS1-2)
Disruptions in Ecosystems	Gr6 Red Snapper (6-MS-ESS3-4) Cherry Tree (6-MS-LS2-2) Wolves and Moose (6-MS-LS2-2) Microplastics (6-MS-LS2-2)	Deer (6-MS-LS2-1) Anasazi and the Great Drought (6-MS-LS2-1, 6-MS-LS2-2)