OpenSciEd Pilot Purchasing and Professional Learning

This document provides schools and school systems with an overview of the OpenSciEd K-8 and high school biology, chemistry and physics curricula. Information on professional learning providers and purchasing physical materials is also available in this guide. Please send questions and feedback to STEM@la.gov.

Updated May 13, 2025

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Overview of OpenSciEd

OpenSciEd is an effort among science educators, curriculum developers, teachers, and philanthropic foundations to produce robust, research-based, freely available instructional materials designed for college and career-ready science standards.

Field Testing and Release of Units

To increase access to high-quality science instructional materials aligned to the Louisiana Student Standards for Science, Louisiana has partnered with OpenSciEd and nine other partner states to develop the first freely available high-quality science curriculum for grades K-8 and high school biology, chemistry, and physics. 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 the NextGenScience Peer Review Panel and made freely and openly available to the public upon earning a quality rating. The materials may then go through the LDOE's Instructional Materials Review process for additional assurance of alignment with the Louisiana Student Standards for Science.

Elementary (Pilot only)

OpenSciEd is developing engaging science materials for grades Kindergarten through grade 5. Each grade level will have four units designed to align with the Louisiana Student Standards for Science. Field testing for the K-5 materials began in the fall of 2023 and will continue through the spring of 2025.

Middle School (Tier 1 OER and Certified Versions)

The full middle school program is now freely available for download on the OpenSciEd website or purchase through certified partners. Louisiana Guides to Implementing OpenSciEd for Grades 6, 7, and 8 provide guidance to assist educators with implementation and include sample scope and sequences. These guides are located on the K-12 Science Resources web page.

High School (Pilot only)

Development for a three-course high school sequence began in January 2021, and the full sequence is available now. Louisiana Guides to Piloting OpenSciEd Biology, Chemistry, and Physics provide guidance to assist educators with implementation and include sample scopes and sequences. These guides are located on the K-12 Science Resources web page.

Contact

Systems interested in piloting should reach out to STEM@la.gov for direct support. For questions or requests for additional information on the OpenSciEd initiative and/or materials, contact info@openscied.org.

OpenSciEd, an Open Educational Resource (OER)

What is an OER?

- Like the original OpenSciEd materials, materials with an OER designation are **free** to download, use, and adapt for educational purposes.
- This "free" designation only covers documents and resources available online in various formats on the OpenSciEd website. Create a free login for access.
- When using materials like these in professional learning or to develop resources, they require a simple citation to credit the developers but no formal permissions.

How is this different from other curricular materials?

- Most curricula consist of proprietary content sold by a vendor. OER materials are different because they can be used freely at no cost rather than requiring permission from the copyright holder.
- For effective implementation, OER materials often require partnerships with additional vendors to obtain kit materials, print materials, professional learning, and other content, such as licenses for digital platforms. While cost can be substantially lower when utilizing OER materials, this can require additional research and time to source the resources and professional learning required for implementation.

Support for Implementation

- OpenSciEd addresses the challenges of sourcing materials for systems in various ways.
    - Establish official partnerships with kit, print, and professional learning providers.
    - Offer bulk downloads and Google Classroom integration on their website.
    - Certify proprietary versions of their materials that can be packaged with all materials and professional learning in one place.
- The LDOE also provides support for OpenSciEd implementation in several ways.
    - Designate pilot status for the OER versions while in development.
    - Review both OER and certified versions with our Louisiana Instructional Materials Review rubric.
    - Develop and publish guidance for the OER version and any certified versions designated high-quality.

See Middle School information to learn more about the different paths for adopting OpenSciEd.

OpenSciEd Elementary Pilot

Access Unit Materials:
Educators piloting available OpenSciEd K-5 units may download the open-source digital files by creating a free login on the OpenSciEd website.

Professional Learning:
OpenSciEd materials are freely accessible online; however, schools and systems are urged to ensure that all teachers participating in the pilot experience introductory and ongoing OpenSciEd professional learning. The following professional development providers are staffed with qualified facilitators who have received official training from OpenSciEd.

OpenSciEd PL Provider	Contact Information
Activate Learning	Tracy Marmolejo; tmarmolejo@activatelearning.com
BSCS	Susan Gomez Zwiep sgzwiep@bscs.org
Michigan Math and Science Leadership Network (MMSLN)	Mary Starr; starrm@mimathandscience.org
OpenSciEd	Request Professional Learning
Side-by-Side Strategies	Cathi Cox-Boniol; ccb91110@gmail.com
For additional support or questions concerning purchasing professional learning or materials, please contact STEM@la.gov.	

Print Materials:
Printed Teacher and Student Editions are available for purchase from Kendall Hunt.

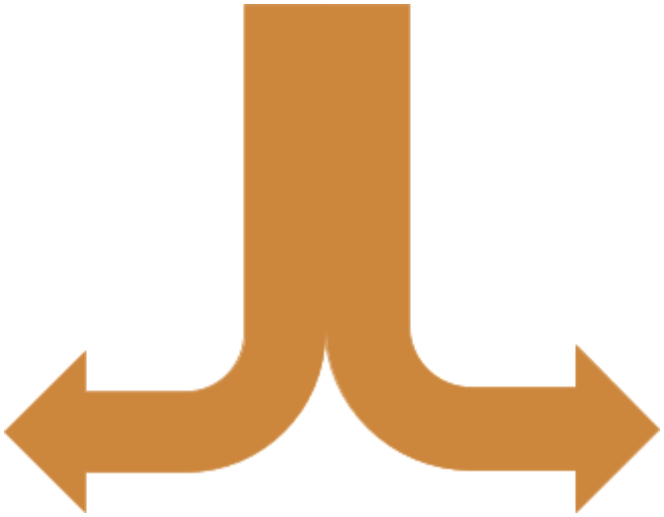
Kits: Laboratory Equipment and Other Scientific Supplies:
Kit materials can be sourced independently by systems using the materials lists for each unit or purchased from any certified provider. The LDOE has state contracts with two vendors: ECA, and Activate Learning. These appear on the Instructional Materials Review Library Webpage under "Instructional Materials Contract Pricing."

For information on joining the pilot for the 2025-2026 school year, please contact STEM@la.gov.

Two Pathways To Adopting OpenSciEd For Middle School

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE (OER)

Download the free instructional materials and contract with a partner for professional learning and kit materials.



CERTIFIED DISTRIBUTORS

Purchase fully packaged versions of the curriculum in one place.

Access the files for this **Tier 1 curriculum** by creating a free login on the OpenSciEd website.

Obtain **kit materials and professional learning** from a **certified partner**.

Information on materials purchasing is available in the Instructional Materials Review Library under the heading "Instructional Materials Contract Pricing."

Information on approved professional learning partners is available on the LDOE Professional Learning Partner Guide.

Purchase **fully packaged Tier 1 certified versions** of OpenSciEd and the accompanying **professional learning** from one of the providers below:

Activate Learning

Carolina Biological

Information on materials purchasing is available in the Instructional Materials Review Library under the heading "Instructional Materials Contract Pricing.

Information on professional learning services from each partner is available on the LDOE Professional Learning Partner Guide.

OpenSciEd High School Pilot

Access Unit Materials:
Educators piloting available OpenSciEd high school units may download the open-source digital files by creating a free login on the OpenSciEd website.

Professional Learning:
OpenSciEd materials are freely accessible online; however, schools and systems are urged to ensure that all teachers participating in the pilot experience introductory and ongoing OpenSciEd professional learning. The following professional development providers are staffed with qualified facilitators who have received official training from OpenSciEd.

OpenSciEd PL Provider	Contact Information
Activate Learning	Tracy Marmolejo; tmarmolejo@activatelearning.com
inquiryHub **Led development for OpenSciEd High School and has shifted all capacity to OpenSciEd. Original inquiryHub materials will no longer have high-quality pilot status in Louisiana after Spring 2025.*	inquiryhub@colorado.edu
Instruction Partners	Jessica Henderson-Rockette jessica.henderson-rockette@instructionpartners.org
Michigan Math and Science Leadership Network (MMSLN)	Mary Starr; starrm@mimathandscience.org
University of Texas at Austin Charles A. Dana Center	Shelly Ledoux; shelly.ledoux@austin.utexas.edu
For additional support or questions concerning purchasing professional learning or materials, please contact STEM@la.gov.	

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 any certified provider. The LDOE currently has state contracts with three vendors: ECA, Aquaphoenix, and Activate Learning. These appear on the Instructional Materials Review Library Webpage under "Instructional Materials Contract Pricing."

OpenSciEd OER Partner Overview

*Indicates a partner with their own Louisiana-reviewed certified version but also supports the OER version.

OpenSciEd Partner	Contact Information	Grade Bands	Professional Learning	Kits	Print Materials
Activate Learning*	Tracy Marmolejo tmarmolejo@activatelearning.com	All	✔	✔	✔
BSCS	Susan Gomez Zwiep sgzwiep@bscs.org	All	✔		
Carolina*	Deborah Linscomb Deborah.linscomb@carolina.com	All		✔	
ECA	Jennifer (Jeny) Apt japt@ecakitservices.com	All		✔	
inquiryHub	inquiryhub@colorado.edu	High School	✔		
Instruction Partners	Jessica Henderson-Rockette jessica.henderson-rockette@instructionpartners.org	6-8 High School	✔		
Kendall Hunt	K12info@kendallhunt.com, 1-800-542-6657	All			✔
MMSLN	Mary Starr starrm@mimathandscience.org	All	✔		
OpenSciEd	Request Professional Learning	All	✔		
Side-by-Side Strategies	Cathi Cox-Boniol ccb91110@gmail.com	K-5 6-8	✔		
University of Texas at Austin Charles A. Dana Center	Shelly Ledoux shelly.ledoux@austin.utexas.edu	All	✔		