OpenSciEd Fact Sheet

The Basics

- 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 free courses designed for new college and career-ready science standards.

- OpenSciEd is a nonprofit initiative that is creating a set of exemplary, open-source science instructional materials that are:
    - designed and aligned to the National Research Council's document, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS);
    - based on research regarding how students learn, what motivates learning, and the implications for teaching;
    - developed with educators and extensively piloted by teachers and schools;
    - designed to be used with low-cost, standard laboratory equipment and materials amenable to large-scale deployment; and
    - improved over time based on feedback from teachers and piloting.

- OpenSciEd instructional materials will be high-quality, freely available, full-course science materials that are currently under development, in partnership with hundreds of educators representing ten states.

- OpenSciEd is a multi-year effort that is now in its beginning stages, initially focusing on grades 6-8.

Rationale

- OpenSciEd was launched to address the need among teachers and school districts for high-quality, open-source, full-course science instructional materials, as well as to support the implementation of middle school science instructional units as a result of the adoption and implementation of the *Framework* and the NGSS.

- OpenSciEd seeks to ensure that any science teacher, anywhere, can access and download freely available, high-quality, locally adaptable full-course instructional materials.

- Too many teachers are using outdated and unaligned instructional materials, sending them online, in search of foundational materials.

A Collaborative Effort

- 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 that are designed for the *Framework* and the NGSS.

- Ten partner states volunteered to join this effort and are collaborating in several ways: through the state department of education, collaborations of multiple districts with a lead representative, or other regional education agencies working with specific schools. The partner states are California, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island and Washington.

- Each partner state—and specific districts, schools, and teachers in those states—participated in curriculum-based professional learning during Summer 2018, in preparation for the 2018-19 pilot of six units of science instruction designed for grades 6-8.

- Initial units will be piloted in partner states in Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, revised based on feedback from states, schools, and teachers, and made available for wider distribution by Fall 2019.

Local Input

- Though OpenSciEd will ultimately have broad appeal, it is designed to be a locally driven initiative. Upon completion, the materials will be freely and equitably available to anyone and can be customized to suit the users' needs.

- OpenSciEd will make no requirements to schools or districts; instructional materials adoptions will remain the purview of schools and districts under each district or state's current laws and policies.