



OPENSIED LAUNCHES INTO HIGH SCHOOL WITH A CURRICULUM DEVELOPER REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 24, 2020)---OpenSciEd, an effort led by partner states, educational leaders, curriculum developers, and philanthropic organizations to improve the supply of and demand for high-quality K-12 science materials, announced a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for curriculum development teams to create a new high school science curriculum. OpenSciEd seeks to partner with a curriculum development team to develop a three-year high school curriculum aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Development teams will be initially screened on their qualifications via this RFQ process. Selected teams will be invited to submit a full proposal in the fall of 2020.

OpenSciEd brings together the necessary organizations for the development, revision, validation, and release of state-of-the-art science instructional and professional learning materials designed for the NGSS. Along with state leadership, OpenSciEd partners with best-in-class curriculum developers, learning scientists, and researchers. The goal of the project is to develop a K-12 program designed to address standards based on the Framework for K-12 Science Education, specifically the NGSS. OpenSciEd began this journey in the middle school grades and to-date has publicly released 6 units of instruction; the complete grades 6 through 8 science program is scheduled for release by February 2022. All OpenSciEd materials are released as CC-BY-4.0 content so that they can be freely used and adapted. As a distinction from other Open Education Resources (OER) developers, OpenSciEd is providing the field with both freely available classroom and professional learning materials.

This high school development RFQ signals the start of our next phase of development. Development of high school materials will begin in January of 2021 with the intention of publicly releasing a complete three-year sequence of courses by January 2024. OpenSciEd also plans to begin development of elementary school science materials in 2021 and will be releasing an RFQ for that work after the new year.

“This is a moment when we are increasingly aware of the need to prepare our citizenry for using and applying science in novel ways to solve vexing societal problems, such as pandemics and climate change,” said Jim Ryan, Executive Director of OpenSciEd. “Americans are calling for an ethnically diverse group of scientists, technologists, and engineers to lead this effort. We must

create a curriculum where all students develop as scientists and build the agency to lead us to solutions for these onerous societal issues.”

This project is made possible by the generous philanthropic support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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 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

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