MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Aligned to NGSS

All 18 Middle School units were written as a cohesive sequence aligned to the standards

Investigative

Intriguing phenomena generate the student questions, explanations, and ideas for investigations that motivate learning. Students investigate their questions and wonderings as they incrementally build and revise their ideas/understanding of the science behind the phenomena
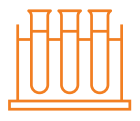
Teacher Facilitated

Teachers elicit these ideas, coordinate collaboration, support investigations, and guide learning to deep conceptual understanding

Collaborative

Students work together and learn from each other as they ask questions, design investigations, and find solutions; they learn how to work together collaboratively and respectfully

Equitable

Instructional routines are designed to value every student's voice in learning science, fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment for every student

The MA OSE Cohort Program provides middle schools with financial resources & on-the-ground support

As a member of the cohort, schools are provided:

- Grant funding to offset professional learning and durable equipment costs
- Implementation support provided by the OpenSciEd Massachusetts Community
- Priority access to in-state OSE training
- Additional professional learning resources & student programming (e.g. educator community events and student industry events)

To participate, schools develop a three-year implementation plan that ensures:

- Full OSE curriculum adoption (all 18 units across grades 6-8)
- Whole school participation – 100% of students and teachers
- Robust teacher training – all science teachers train in 4 units each
- Participation in annual end-of-year teacher & student feedback surveys

Applications due February 4, 2026
Visit one8ALHub.org/OSE-ma to apply

Questions? Get in touch today

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **When are applications due?** Applications are due February 4, 2026.

2. **How do I apply?** To apply for the program, please visit https://one8appliedlearninghub.org/grants/ to access the online application.

3. **Which schools are eligible to apply?** Schools must have students in grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Schools that include students in grades 6-8 but also include students in additional grades are eligible to apply, as well as schools that include at least one of these grades. Competitive preference is given to schools/districts with 15% or more of students from low-income backgrounds.

4. **Can a grant span more than one year?** Grants are awarded for a period of three years. Schools can build out their own implementation plan which results in all 18 units being implemented in year three of the grant.

5. **How are grant sizes determined? What can grant funding be used for?** Grant funding is intended to support high-quality adoption of OpenSciEd curricular resources and more specifically intended to offset the costs associated with launching the program. Schools will be provided with three payments over three years (delivered electronically) and schools will pay vendors directly. Grant awards sizes are determined by school size and based on two key start-up costs.

    1. <u>Professional learning for teachers</u>: All teachers trained in four units, plus additional funding for Teacher Champions.
    2. <u>Durable equipment kits</u>: Schools can receive up to $650 per unit per teacher (for all six units).

6. **I thought OpenSciEd was free and open source – what do I need a grant for?** OSE is an open-source curriculum that is free and available for download. The grant program is designed to support schools to go beyond just downloading curriculum and instead support teachers and leaders as they adopt and implement this cutting-edge innovative science curriculum. Grants provide for teacher professional development, including the foundational OSE PD that introduces teachers to the OSE storyline approach and allows teachers to experience the different "routines" that the curriculum depends on. Teachers who have helped to pilot and inform the creation of OSE report that the professional learning is essential to be able to lead an effective OSE classroom. In addition, the units include many hands-on student experiences that require equipment and materials. In addition to funding for professional development, the grant also offers an allowance for durable equipment costs.

7. **Can my school request additional funding for teachers to complete more professional development?** The grant is designed to provide financial support for science teachers to complete 4 units of PD. This decision is based on feedback from educators who participated in the OSE pilot. The grant also provides for a Teacher Champion at each grade level to complete training for a fifth unit.

8. **The grant covers professional development for 4 units per teacher, what about the kits? Is it only 4 kits per teacher or 6 per teacher?** Schools can seek durable kit funding for all 6 units per teacher at each grade level. In the instance where teachers teach across multiple grade levels, they need only train in 4 units, but can seek kit support for all units that they teach. For example, if a teacher teaches 6th and 7th grade, they would train in a total of 4 units across the two grade levels and could seek financial support for all 12 kits, 6 per grade level.

9. **What makes an application competitive?** The MA OpenSciEd Cohort Program seeks to partner with schools that are committed to full OSE adoption – to rethinking and reimagining science education for their middle school students and teachers. Competitive applications demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to OSE's instructional approach and outline a sensible implementation plan that, within three years, allows all students to complete 6 OSE units per year.

10. **How should I plan for rolling out units and pacing teacher training? Do I have to do everything all at once?** Schools have up to three years to fully build out their OpenSciEd programs. We recommend all teachers implement three units in year 1, then add two more units at each grade level in year two, and the remaining unit at each grade level in year 3.

11. **Can we edit our application after it has been submitted?** Once you click "Submit", you cannot make further edits to your application. However, the portal allows you to login and adjust at any point in the process before clicking "Submit."

12. **Who provides implementation support?** Direct support for all partner schools is offered by the OpenSciEd Massachusetts Community ("OSE Mass"). OSE Mass is a team of educators supporting the implementation of OSE in classrooms across Massachusetts whose goal is to support schools in the effective implementation of OSE's high-quality instructional material (HQIM).