Science Leadership School Partners Program

Every child should attend a school that demonstrates a quality learning environment for science.

The **Science Leadership School Partners Program** provides support and a mechanism for whole-school change, empowering educators to create and implement a path to improvement.

The Museum of Science and Industry's **Science Leadership School Partners Program** provides a structured, democratic process for whole-school change around science education: gauging the current school-wide status of science education and creating and implementing action plans. It is a three-year partnership opportunity in which the Museum builds school capacity to lead and implement school-wide change over time.

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- What the program *IS* and *IS NOT*

Characteristics of a Teacher Leader

Time Commitments
- Cross-disciplinary team meetings
- Work sessions at MSI

Requirements, Benefits, and Supports
- For the school
- For the Teacher Leader
- For the Supporting Administrator

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications open in the Spring of each year

- Each year, a select cohort of schools is chosen to enter the Science Leadership School Partners Program

- School Partners accepted into the program receive a comprehensive three-year school support package from the Museum

For more information
- Visit: msichicago.org/scienceleadership
- Email: scienceleadership@msichicago.org
- Click here for video testimonials

KEY FEATURES

What it *IS*	What it *IS NOT*
- A mechanism for schools to engage in **honest, reflective, and democratic discussions** to identify what is needed to make science a school-wide priority - A **pathway to improvement** consisting of self-assessment, action planning, and implementation - A **differentiated process** driven by each individual school's needs	- NOT the Museum prescribing programs or developing plans for your school - NOT a method of enforcing mandates - NOT a judgment or score of the school's deficiencies in science programming - NOT a "one size fits all" solution
- Assembling a **cross-disciplinary school team**, including a Teacher Leader, a Supporting Administrator, and members from across grade levels and disciplines, to be responsible for the program - Collaborative work **facilitated by the Teacher Leader and supported by a designated administrator** - A commitment to **at least 10 hours of team meetings** each year, with 7 of those hours completed by Thanksgiving	- NOT a program only for science teachers - NOT a process led by a school administrator - NOT Museum staff facilitating meetings at your school - NOT a training for instructional coaching
- An opportunity for a **three-year partnership** with the Museum - Engagement with **Museum staff who will train, coach, and consult** with Teacher Leaders and support designated administrators to be agents of change - Work that is grounded in the Museum's **School Support Tool**, based on current education research	- NOT a curriculum for K-8 science or STEM education - NOT the Museum's professional development workshops about science instruction or the Next Generation Science Standards - NOT short-term change or a quick fix

CHARACTERISTICS of a TEACHER LEADER

Teacher Leaders — teachers who have three or more years of classroom experience in science and are supported by their school's administration — fill an important niche in leading school-wide improvement in science education.

Teacher Leaders are ...

Skillful Communicators

✓ Good listeners
✓ Collaborative within the school community
✓ Able to lead a discussion while integrating all voices and perspectives
✓ Teachers who build trust and rapport with colleagues, establish solid relationships, and influence school culture

Project Managers

✓ Organized
✓ Resourceful
✓ Forward-thinking, able to see long-term goals through to fruition
✓ Punctual and respectful of time
✓ Good at balancing priorities

Proven Leaders

✓ Inclusive
✓ Empathetic and supportive of their peers
✓ Able to facilitate the learning of others
✓ Able to lead teams of their peers
✓ Ready to take the next steps in developing leadership skills
✓ Leaders within and beyond the classroom
✓ Influencers of others towards improved educational practice

Established Science Educators

✓ Passionate about science education at the whole-school level
✓ Exemplars of best practices in science teaching and learning
✓ Advocates for science and STEM outside of their own classroom
✓ Teachers who have a minimum of 3 years of classroom experience in science

TIME COMMITMENTS for YEAR 1 School Partners

MSI WORK SESSIONS: *Teacher Leaders and Supporting Administrators*

Teacher Leaders and Supporting Administrators are required to attend the following training and work sessions conducted by MSI (in-person or virtual), in addition to the time spent in cross-disciplinary team meetings at school:

	Summer Training*	Work Sessions*
TEACHER LEADER *(Total = 33 hours with MSI)*	Three days in late Summer ● *8 a.m. - 3 p.m.*	Once a month ● *5 - 8 p.m.*
SUPPORTING ADMINISTRATOR *(Total = 10 hours with MSI)*	One half-day in late Summer ● *8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*	Once in the Fall and the Spring ● *5 - 8 p.m.*

***Pandemic Update**: Due to ongoing schedule uncertainties for multiple school districts, specific dates and times for our 2021-22 programming are pending and will be provided once determined.*

SCHOOL MEETINGS: *Cross-Disciplinary School Team*

A **minimum of 10 hours of total school meeting time** and **another 2 hours of total preparation time** are required of *each cross-disciplinary team member* to complete the work of evidence gathering, rating, and action planning at the school site.

SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
EVIDENCE GATHERING + RATING			**ACTION PLANNING + IMPLEMENTATION**			**IMPLEMENTATION + REFLECTION**	
7 hours of meeting time + additional time for preparation			**2 hours** of meeting time + additional time for implementing			**1 hour** of meeting time + additional time for implementing	

The *cross-disciplinary school team* is comprised of **6-10 staff members:**

- **Teacher Leader** - coordinates and facilitates all meetings
- **Administrator** - attends and actively participates, also ensures the meeting time is protected
- **4-8 additional staff members** - assembled from across many subject areas and grade levels

REQUIREMENTS, BENEFITS, and SUPPORTS

	For the School	For the Teacher Leader	For the Supporting Administrator
REQUIREMENTS	**Commit:** Demonstrate a rigorous commitment to supporting the program components. **Celebrate:** Participate in the end-of-year recognition event to celebrate and showcase the year's accomplishments. School Partners will highlight their action plans which will serve as models for other schools looking to prioritize science at the whole-school level.	**Participate:** Attend all summer training days and all evening work sessions during the school year with MSI. **Facilitate:** Coordinate and lead all program components with a cross-disciplinary school team. **Manage Data:** Use MSI's digital School Support Tool to manage and organize the school's yearlong tasks.	**Plan:** Schedule at least 10 hours of meeting time for your school's cross-disciplinary school team. **Require Team Cohesion:** Assemble a cross-disciplinary school team and require all to attend and contribute. **Participate:** Participate as an active member of the cross-disciplinary school team and attend one half-day summer training and two evening work sessions with MSI.
BENEFITS	**Long-term Partnership:** School Partners may participate in this program for up to three years and continue to be supported as Alumni School Partners. **MSI Resources:** School Partners will have priority access to Museum opportunities. Teachers and school groups receive free Museum admission for field trips. **Implementation Support:** School Partners will receive $500 in May of each year to help carry out action plan items that will enhance science education at the whole-school level.	**Professional Portfolio:** School Partner Teacher Leaders build their professional portfolios and enhance their career opportunities. **Stipend:** Teacher Leaders receive $2,500 in May of each year for approximately 40 hours of work after requirements are complete. **Leadership Development:** Teacher Leaders receive training to lead school-wide change initiatives and coaching to manage implementation efforts from start to finish.	**Distributed Leadership:** Supporting Administrators will help build staff capacity to lead school-wide initiatives. **Marketing + Public Relations:** Supporting Administrators can communicate to their stakeholders: ● Their partnership with MSI ● Their school's commitment to science education ● School Support Tool data to show improvement over time
SUPPORTS	**Digital Database:** School Partners have access to MSI's digital School Support Tool to collect and archive information. **STEM Network:** School Partners can access the STEM Network website that includes a curated set of resources and ways to connect with other School Partners.	**MSI Work Sessions:** MSI supports Teacher Leaders throughout the year with evening work sessions that allow time for planning, troubleshooting, best practices, and collegial support. **Cohort of Teacher Leaders:** Teacher Leaders are active members of a cohort leading this whole-school change process. MSI staff will support, facilitate, and foster cohort engagement.	**MSI Work Sessions:** MSI supports administrators throughout the year with evening work sessions that allow time for planning, troubleshooting, best practices, and collegial support. **Cohort of Administrators:** Supporting Administrators are active members of a cohort prioritizing science at the whole-school level. MSI staff will support, facilitate, and foster cohort engagement.

science leadership initiative
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