Join a study of Amplify Science Middle School Curriculum

An exciting opportunity for districts to join a study that will examine how the Amplify Science Curriculum Materials support the teaching and learning of the NGSS.

The study will take place during the 2018-2019 school year.

2 key benefits for participating districts:
- ASMS curriculum materials at no cost to schools
- Professional development on the ASMS curriculum and NGSS

Don’t miss this unique opportunity

ASMS curriculum units feature digital simulations, engaging media, physical models and more.

Participate in a landmark study funded by the National Science Foundation. Findings from this study will help the science education community better understand how well-designed curriculum materials can support NGSS instruction.

Conducted by SRI International, the study’s goals are to understand the impact of the curriculum on student achievement, classroom implementation and instructional practice.

The research questions are:

1. What is the impact of the ASMS curriculum on learning outcomes in culturally and linguistically diverse school settings?

2. How does ASMS curriculum support teachers in implementing NGSS instruction?

Support your District’s Implementation of ASMS Curriculum While Addressing the NGSS

Planning the study is now underway. Interested districts are invited to contact the SRI Education study team during Spring 2018.

To learn more, contact:
Christopher Harris, Principal Investigator and Carrie Allen, Recruitment Coordinator at:

ASMS_CurriculumStudy@sri.com
or visit
https://tinyurl.com/asms-study

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1720514. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.
An opportunity for school districts that are considering ASMS adoption

SRI International has been awarded a research grant from the National Science Foundation to design and conduct a large-scale study to examine the impact of the ASMS curriculum on teaching and learning. Education researchers at SRI will lead the study and will work closely with the developers from Lawrence Hall of Science and recruited school districts to design and conduct the study in middle school science classrooms.

This 1-year efficacy study is a randomized control trial that will compare classrooms that receive the ASMS curriculum materials and professional development support with classrooms in a “business as usual” (control) condition in several large school districts. Teachers in both conditions will receive professional development on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

The research team is currently inviting districts to participate in the study that will take place during the 2018 - 2019 school year.

Why conduct a study of ASMS?

The ASMS curriculum materials are ideally suited for a study that aims at the NGSS. Designed by the Lawrence Hall of Science in collaboration with Amplify, ASMS is the Hall’s first comprehensive curriculum program that has been designed from the ground up specifically to meet the vision of the Framework and address the performance expectations of the NGSS. The materials provide students with a multitude of opportunities to engage with core ideas and crosscutting concepts in the context of science and engineering practices over time, so that they strengthen their science proficiency.

What are the study’s goals?

The study’s goals are to understand the impact of the curriculum on student achievement, classroom implementation and instructional practice.

What are the benefits of participation in the study?

District stakeholders, teachers, and students will benefit from study reports of:

- Best teaching practices related to NGSS instruction, a valuable resource as more teachers adopt ASMS
- Descriptions of effective ways to support students’ developing science practices as part of ASMS (aligned with NGSS)
- District-level statistics on student achievement outcomes, including a presentation of topics students had more difficulty mastering

Teachers who participate in the study will receive a signing bonus, an annual stipend for participation in the study, and an additional stipend for their participation in ASMS professional development.

Are you considering adopting ASMS?

Participating in this study could be a great way to work carefully toward a measured implementation of the Amplify Science Middle School materials and at a reduced cost.

In 2018-19, the study will randomly assign half the schools in the district to implement ASMS in 7th grade classrooms, while the other half continues with materials they already use. The SRI study will provide the necessary PD and implementation support to this group, with no monetary costs for the district. In fact, we provide all materials for free, plus incentives to 7th grade science teachers for their participation. After the main study concludes in Spring 2019, the remaining 7th grade teachers receive PD and are provided the full-year ASMS curriculum for implementing in the other half of the district’s schools. Now all 7th grade teachers have the materials, and the district’s only cost for adopting ASMS will be for 6th and 8th grades.

ASMS STUDY TIMELINE

Now - May ’18
- District Coordination (Districts plan with study team)
- Teachers implementing ASMS receive PD on curriculum materials
- All teachers receive PD on NGSS
- District receives 7th grade curriculum materials for schools assigned to ASMS

Summer ’18
- Teachers implement ASMS in their classrooms
- School-year curriculum PD

Fall ’18 - Spring ’19
- District receives 7th grade curriculum materials for all remaining schools
- Remaining 7th grade teachers receive curriculum PD