



TO: Liam Skinner, Superintendent

FROM: Oneida Fox Roye, EdD, Assistant Superintendent 

DATE: January 10, 2025

RE: OpenSciEd Professional Development

I am writing to request approval for an in-state overnight professional development opportunity for Lowell Public Schools core middle school science teachers. This will allow LPS teachers to attend the OpenSciEd (OSE) Massachusetts Winter Professional Learning Workshop, scheduled for February at the Sheraton Four Points in Norwood, Massachusetts.

Participation in this workshop aligns with the requirements of the district's One8 Foundation grant funding for FY25. As part of this grant, LPS is expected to send a cohort of core science content teachers from Grades 6–8 to engage in professional learning and gain a thorough understanding of the upcoming OpenSciEd units as part of the LPS 3-year OpenSciEd curriculum adoption plan.

The workshops offered for middle school science teachers include the following:

- Grade 6: Earth and Space (February 3 and 4)
- Grade 7: Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis (February 3 and 4)
- Grade 8: Natural Selection (February 5 and 6)
- Grade 6-8 Optional backup date (February 10 and 11)

As part of our commitment to the adoption of the OpenSciEd, High-Quality Instructional Material (HQIM), our teachers will need to be out of their classrooms for two days. The One8 Foundation grant covers the cost of overnight accommodations, so no additional cost for hotel expenses will be incurred. However, the district will need to provide substitute coverage.

Thank you for your consideration.

