

# STEM Equipment and Professional Development Grants

## Program Overview

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) seeks to further advance and expand life sciences education at Massachusetts public schools through implementation of project and inquiry-based curriculum. Grants are awarded to schools and curriculum providers for the purpose of purchasing equipment, supplies, technology, and providing teachers with professional development needed to support new or expanded curriculum.

Funding will enable schools to educate students in real-world scenarios that will prepare them for career opportunities in the life sciences. Professional development funding will ensure that educators receive the technical training needed to effectively use newly acquired equipment and technology.

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be one of the following:

- Vocational technical high school
- Public elementary (gr. 3-5)/middle/high school located in a Gateway City or with at least 25% of students classified by DESE as "Low Income"
- Non-profit curriculum provider delivering life sciences curricula/PD to schools that meet any of the above-stated criteria

Applicants can request grant funding as follows:

|  | Equipment and Supplies | Professional Development |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------|
| High school (new program or reconfiguring lab space) | \$85,000               | \$15,000                 |
| High school (upgrades to existing program)           | \$65,000               | \$15,000                 |
| Middle school  | \$30,000               | \$10,000                 |
| Elementary school (grades 3-5)                       | \$15,000               | \$10,000                 |

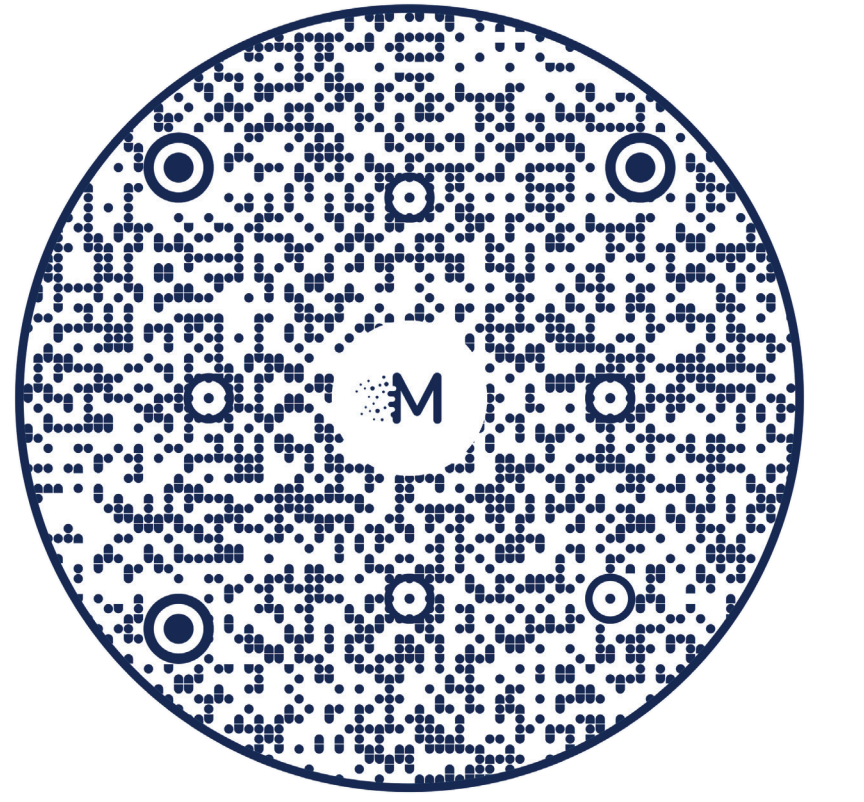
## Case Study

The MLSC has awarded grants to the Boston Public Schools (BPS) to support nine high schools with equipment, supplies, technology, and teacher training that expanded life sciences education for its students.

This grant supported the BPS mission of opening up access for its historically underrepresented students to the life sciences and related STEM careers, amplifying an ethos of biotechnology as an opportunity for all students. The school district remains committed to connecting students with the real-world issues biotechnology solves, exposing them to the range of careers in the life sciences, while also introducing them to industry professionals that include women and people of color.







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## Impact on the Ecosystem

Investments made through this program seek to:

- Expand access to STEM equipment, curriculum, and professional development
- Increase educational equity and help close the achievement and opportunity gaps
- Train a diverse STEM workforce pipeline
- Support the implementation of Massachusetts Science Technology, and Engineering Standards
- Increase student achievement and interest in STEM
- Increase awareness of life sciences careers
- Improve college and career readiness
- Leverage partnerships

**\$28M +**

in STEM equipment and professional development.

**325** schools across Massachusetts,

nearly 40% of MA K-12 students.



**80%**

of students attending eligible middle/high schools have gained access to new equipment.



Serving schools in all **14** Massachusetts counties and all **26** Gateway Cities.



We see this grant as an opportunity for both our teachers and our students as we work to provide a high level of science instruction and science pathways to future careers.”

*David Pierce*  
Assistant Principal  
Randolph High School

