

# STEM Equipment and Professional Development Grant Program



*"This grant helps our students thrive by providing the supplies necessary for the students to have better access to STEM skills, internships, colleges, and scholarships. We are thrilled to continue to grow, learn, and partner with MLSC."*

- East Boston High School  
Headmaster Phillip R. Brangiforte

## Program Overview

The MLSC seeks to further advance and expand life sciences education at Massachusetts public high schools and middle schools through implementation of project and inquiry-based curriculum. Grants are awarded to schools and curriculum providers for the purpose of teacher professional development and the purchase of equipment, materials, supplies, and technology 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. Funding for teacher professional development will ensure that educators receive the technical training needed to effectively use newly acquired equipment and technology.

Applicants can request grant funding of up to \$200,000 (up to \$100,000 per high school and up to \$50,000 per middle school) for capital expenses (including equipment, materials, supplies, and technology), and up to \$40,000 (up to \$20,000 per school) for professional development.

## Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be one of the following:

- Vocational technical high school
- Public middle school or high school (including charter schools) located in a "Gateway City"
- Public high school or middle school with a student population of at least 25% classified as "economically disadvantaged" by MA DESE
- Non-profit curriculum provider, with a presence in Massachusetts, delivering STEM curriculum and teacher professional development to schools that meet any of the above-stated criteria

For more information, please visit:

[masslifesciences.com/stem-equipment-and-professional-development-grants/](https://masslifesciences.com/stem-equipment-and-professional-development-grants/)

or email: [equip@masslifesciences.com](mailto:equip@masslifesciences.com)

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## Case Study

In 2019, the MLSC awarded the Boston Public Schools (BPS) with a \$421,668 grant to support nine high schools with equipment, supplies, technology, and teacher training that expanded life sciences education for 1,700 students. BPS was able to develop new career and technical education Biotechnology Pathways and courses in three high schools, building instructional capacity to integrate biotechnology hands-on labs into 15 existing courses and four new courses in seven high schools with new industry-standard equipment and high-quality training for 21 teachers.

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. Once students become familiar and develop competency with the equipment and its use, it becomes less intimidating and more exciting to them. 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.

## 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 & career readiness
- Leverage partnerships

Historically, the MLSC has invested more than \$21.5 million in equipment and professional development funding in 240-plus high schools and middle schools throughout Massachusetts and has leveraged more than \$1 million in cash and in-kind matching funds from industry partners. More than 100 schools also received funding to support teacher professional development related to curriculum implementation and equipment training.

- MLSC funding has served schools in all 14 Massachusetts counties and all 26 Gateway Cities
- More than half of students attending eligible schools have gained access to new equipment
- 33% of all Massachusetts public school students attend a school that has received an MLSC grant

*"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."*

- Randolph High School  
Assistant Principal David Pierce