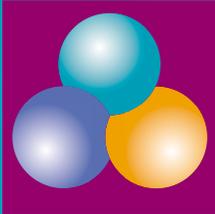


THE LASER CENTER

*Leadership and Assistance for
Science Education Reform*



Guiding school districts through the process of exploring, adopting, implementing, and sustaining quality science education programs

National Science Resources Center

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES  Smithsonian
Institution

The LASER Center



YOUR PARTNER FOR IMPLEMENTING SCIENCE EDUCATION REFORM

The NSRC LASER Center helps school districts nationwide implement hands-on, inquiry-centered science programs for K–8 students. Through partnering with LASER, school districts work towards developing a scientifically literate student population, moving teachers toward science teaching expertise, and increasing student achievement in science.

WORK WITH LASER TO:

Build awareness within your school, district, community, and state for a new vision of K–8 science learning and teaching based on research

Learn about exemplary, inquiry-centered K–8 science curriculum programs, and about the systems required for their sustained implementation

Implement a research-based science education program in your school district

Develop productive partnerships with school districts, corporations, foundations, museums, and academic institutions for implementing and sustaining quality K–8 science education programs

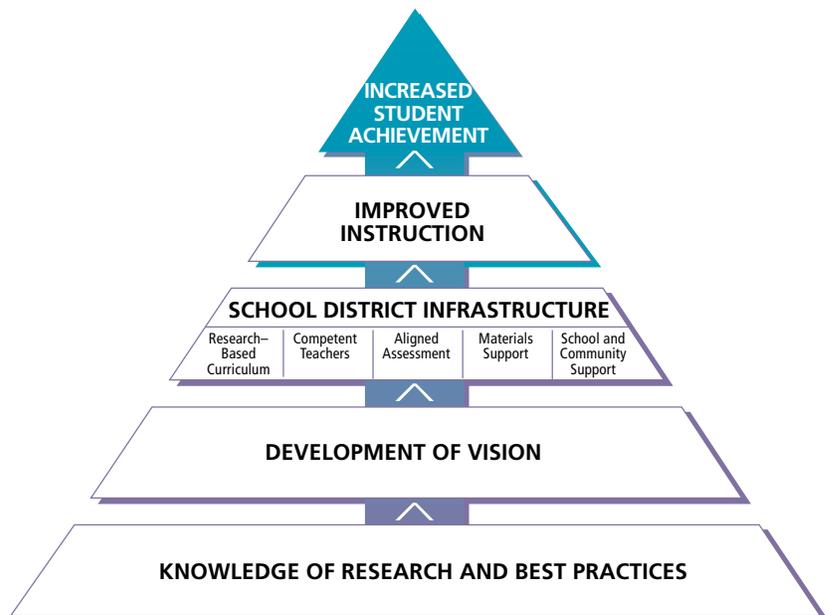
Join a national network of informed leaders representing school districts, states, academic institutions, museums, foundations, and corporations who are effectively implementing and advocating quality science education programs for all students

LEADERSHIP AND ASSISTANCE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION REFORM

Beginning in 1985, the NSRC has made a significant contribution to the reform of science education in the nation's schools. One of its most important functions is outreach to school districts—providing leaders with access to research and best practices for developing a vision of effective science learning and teaching and helping them plan, implement, and sustain quality programs for all students.

Building on more than a decade of work, the Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) Center was launched in 1998 to leverage reform through the development of partnerships with school districts, corporations, foundations, museums, and academic institutions. The strategic work of the LASER Center and its partners is based on a shared vision, informed by research, guided by the NSRC theory of action, and continuously improved to have the maximum impact on student achievement.

THE NSRC THEORY OF ACTION



The NSRC developed this theory of action to guide school districts in the process of establishing research-based science education programs that result in improved instruction and increased achievement for all students.

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NSRC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR SYSTEMIC REFORM

The NSRC provides services and products for improving the learning and teaching of science in the nation's school districts. Informed by research, these services are delivered through three integrated centers: the Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) Center, the Professional Development Center, and the Curriculum Development Center.

LASER CENTER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The LASER Center's staff and its partners offer school districts the following comprehensive menu of programs for initiating, implementing, and sustaining standards-based, inquiry-centered science curricula. Through LASER, 460 school districts are bringing exemplary inquiry science teaching and learning to more than 2.5 million students.

<h3>Building Awareness for Reform</h3>	<p>Programs that provide school district, community, state, and national leaders with experience and knowledge about effective science learning and teaching, and the infrastructure needed to support the vision. Shared Vision Conferences are designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National and state government officials ▪ Local school districts and community officials ▪ Academic leaders ▪ Business and industry leaders ▪ Museum and science technology centers
<h3>Initiating Reform</h3>	<p>Programs, processes, and resources that educate strategic leadership teams about the research and best practices needed to establish an effective infrastructure for science education reform, and that guide school districts through the process of developing a strategic plan based on this information. Strategic Planning Institutes are designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K–6 science educators ▪ K–8 science educators ▪ Middle school science educators ▪ Academic institutions
<h3>Implementing and Institutionalizing Reform</h3>	<p>Programs and resources that provide district and community leaders with access to information, resources, and assistance needed to sustain an effective science education program. Advanced Implementation Academies are based on reform topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Piloting, selecting, and adopting curricula ▪ Designing professional development programs for novice, competent, and expert science teachers ▪ Establishing materials support systems ▪ Designing classroom and program assessment ▪ Achieving literacy through science ▪ Building administrative and community support for inquiry science education
<h3>Developing Leadership Capacity for Reform</h3>	<p>Strategies designed to educate scientists, engineers, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders. Opportunities for developing leadership capacity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Faculty roles at Shared Vision Conferences ▪ Faculty internships at Institutes and Academies

INCREASING TIME, RESOURCES, AND COMPLEXITY



ABOUT THE NSRC

The Leader in Science Education Reform

The National Science Resources Center is committed to establishing effective science programs for all students. The NSRC employs strategies that are informed by research, based on best practices, and leverage change through the development of strategic partnerships.

An Organization of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academies

Established in 1985, the NSRC is an organization of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Academies. Both the Academies and the Smithsonian provide the NSRC with direct access to the highest quality research and scientific and engineering expertise to inform its services and products.

LASER CENTER SPONSORS

The following have made financial contributions to the LASER Center:

- Bayer Foundation
- Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc.
- Carolina Biological Supply Company
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- DuPont
- Hewlett-Packard Company
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- The Lucent Technologies Foundation
- Merck Institute for Science Education
- National Science Foundation
- The Pfizer Foundation
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- The Shell Oil Company Foundation



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