



National Science Resources Center

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES  Smithsonian Institution

LASER K–8 Science Education Strategic Planning Institute

Goals

The National LASER K–8 Science Education Strategic Planning Institute will help school district leadership teams bring about the systemic reform of science education in their communities.

Through a six-day program of interactive workshops and discussions, leadership teams will:

- Develop a shared vision about effective science learning and teaching
- Design models for developing and sustaining a corps of leaders for improving the learning and teaching of science
- Apply knowledge about the five components of an effective school-based infrastructure needed to support a research-based science program
 - Curriculum—Science curricula that are based on the National Science Education Standards and are produced through a careful research and development process
 - Professional Development—Programs that prepare educators to teach inquiry-centered science and that consider professional growth to be a long-term process
 - Science Materials Support—Cost-effective systems for supplying science equipment and materials to classrooms
 - Assessment—Strategies that align the evaluation of student performance with the goals of an inquiry-centered science program
 - Administrative and Community Support—Strategies for building and sustaining district and community support
- Develop a strategic plan for improving instruction in science that is informed by research, incorporates best practices, and leverages change through partnerships
- Assess and incorporate local, state, regional, and national resources that will contribute to the implementation and sustainability of a research-based science programs
- Become members of a network of informed professionals working to increase student achievement through the implementation of effective science programs