

Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 3 (STEM)
BSCS Science Learning
S411C230181
Engaging Science Learning with OpenSciEd

To help science teachers in high-need middle schools foster deep, engaging science learning for all students, BSCS Science Learning, American Institutes for Research® (AIR®), and Southern University and A&M College (an HBCU), propose a project that exemplifies Absolute Priorities 1 and 3, and Competitive Preference Priority 1. The Engaging Science Learning with OpenSciEd project investigates the efficacy of a widely adopted middle school science program that includes classroom materials and professional learning resources. The project goals are to a) leverage expertise and perspective of Southern University to co-adapt, pilot, monitor and refine the professional learning program to support implementation of OpenSciEd, b) examine the impact of OpenSciEd on state assessments, non-cognitive outcomes, and equitable learning, through a teacher-level matched quasi-experiment that meets What Works Clearinghouse standards with reservations, and c) explore how implementation of OpenSciEd can support engaging, relevant and coherent student learning, and what factors are needed to support coherent implementation. The project will involve 80 8th grade science teachers and over 4800 8th grade students in high need (at risk for educational failure) districts in Louisiana, including East Baton Rouge Parish Schools. Outcomes from the project will include higher student achievement in science, rigorous evidence on the efficacy of the OpenSciEd program, knowledge of how to adapt OpenSciEd professional learning to the meet the needs and leverage the resources high-need students, and capacity at Southern University to support continued implementation of the program. SEA Partner: Louisiana Department of Education. LEA Partners: East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Southern University Laboratory School. Other Partners: American Institutes for Research® (AIR®), and Southern University