



Opportunity Through Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2022-040

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Curriculum Directors  
Science Instructional Facilitators  
Science Teachers, Grades 5 and 8

**FROM:** Wanda Maloney, Chief Policy Officer

**DATE:** March 28, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Science PD for Fifth and Eighth Grade Science Educators

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# SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The EdCounts [Stackable, Instructionally-embedded, Portable Science Assessments](#) (SIPS) grant will offer districts an opportunity for educators in fifth and eighth grade to participate in the piloting of science instruction and assessment activities during the 2022-23 school year.

### What is the SIPS Project?

The US Department of Education funded SIPS Assessments project brings together a collaborative team representing seven states as well as national researchers to develop high quality three dimensional science assessments and supporting instructional resources. The project goals are to:

- Establish processes, tools, and resources to drive meaningful shifts to science instructional practice and assessment use as envisioned by the National Research Council's [A Framework for K12 Science Education](#).
- Build state and local educators' capacity to offer high-quality science instruction, evaluate students' learning, and make appropriate instructional decisions.

### What does SIPS offer?

By participating in the pilot, the fifth and eighth grade educators will:

- Attend ongoing professional learning sessions beginning in the late-summer 2022 to support

their understanding, implementation, and use of SIPS science instructional resources and three-dimensional assessments.

- Administer and score one or more SIPS end-of-unit assessments to provide feedback regarding the quality and usefulness of that assessment and the information it provides to educators, parents/guardians, and students for informing subsequent teaching and learning.
- Gain access to a variety of tools and resources and receive on-demand support to evaluate evidence of students' learning and to make timely and meaningful adjustments to instruction in ways that prioritize student learning.

### **How can I learn more?**

Complete this [brief survey](#) to express your interest in learning more about this exciting opportunity to participate in the 2022-23 SIPS assessment pilot by **April 8, 2022**. Following completion of the survey, the SIPS team will contact participants directly to provide additional information, answer questions about the program, and invite applicants to a short webinar that outlines the project and next steps.

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*For more information, contact Erin Buchanan, SIPS Project Manager at [ebuchanan@edcount.com](mailto:ebuchanan@edcount.com).*