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

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.

For more information, contact Erin Buchanan, SIPS Project Manager at ebuchanan@edcount.com.