

## An Invitation to Join the Elementary Principals' Science Network

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The introduction of the more rigorous 2016 Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) standards presents an opportunity to reinforce the importance of a robust science program that includes sufficient time on science in the elementary classroom, so that students are prepared for post secondary success. Elementary principals interested in improving student access to high quality science instruction in the elementary grades, especially those with a background in science, are encouraged to apply to join the network.

### What is the Elementary Principals' Science Network?

- A collaboration between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and the Massachusetts Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA), the Elementary Principals' Science Network is an effort to bring elementary principals from across the state together to develop guidance and tools to promote high quality science instruction in elementary schools.
- The network will:
  - identify current barriers to science instruction in elementary grades;
  - develop strategies to overcome barriers (e.g., sample teacher or student schedules, sample school improvement plans or goals focused on science instruction, sample professional practice goals, innovative ways for addressing educators' professional development needs related to science);
  - build an elementary school self-assessment tool to support school leaders to identify key levers to increase the quality of science instruction and time on science; and
  - disseminate information and resources to elementary school leaders statewide.

### Benefits

As part of the network, principals will:

- Learn more about the 2016 STE standards and the shifts for curriculum and instruction;
- Collaborate with other school leaders and share successes and concerns related to science education;
- Participate in statewide efforts to promote science; and
- Contribute to the development of resources and guidance for statewide use.

### Commitment

The Elementary Principals' Science Network will meet for four half days from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (April 7, 2017, September 2017, January 2018 and March 2018). The first meeting will take place at the MESPA offices. Virtual meetings will occur between face-to-face meetings on a schedule to be determined by the members. Network members will be asked to review documents and provide input and suggestions between meetings.

### Apply

Apply online at <https://tinyurl.com/gwdz6w2>. **Applications are due by March 15, 2017.**

**Questions?** Email Nicole Scola, ESE Science Specialist, [nscola@doe.mass.edu](mailto:nscola@doe.mass.edu)