

Letter of Intent to Participate in the Indiana Science Initiative

To Whom It May Concern:

This Letter of Intent indicates the interest of the Indiana accredited school represented by the school district listed below to participate in the Indiana Science Initiative (ISI) through the Indiana curricular materials adoption process. This letter confirms our understanding of the principal Terms and Conditions of participation and our mutual willingness to proceed in good faith to work toward the Benefits consistent with these terms.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This letter of intent is signed indicating the participating school and representative district intends to meet the following terms and conditions. In each of the participating schools and representative districts:

1. All teachers of science and representative school administrators will complete four days of professional development during the summer of 2011
 - a. Exception: Teachers of science and representative school administrators in schools that participated in the ISI Pilot will complete two days of professional development during the summer of 2011
2. Science curricular materials, identified by the Indiana Science Initiative Curricular Materials Matrix, will be cooperatively purchased for the appropriate grade levels
3. Fees will be used to cooperatively participate in the refurbishment of the science curricular materials
4. Science curricular materials will be refurbished through a cooperative materials refurbishment process that currently includes picking up and dropping off curricular materials at a regional site to be determined
 - a. Efforts will be made so that regional sites will be within a one hour drive of a participating school during the school year
5. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by April 1, 2011
6. All teachers of science and administrators will enroll in the appropriate communities on Learning Connection
7. Evaluation data will be provided which will include surveys on teacher efficacy, pre- and post-tests on student understanding of related science content and science processes

Participation of schools may be limited. Agreement with the above Terms and Conditions is necessary for consideration to participate in the Indiana Science Initiative. The following two additional criteria, listed in order of priority, will determine priority for participation. First is the percentage of students who will receive instruction in science with Indiana Science Initiative curricular materials with a teacher who has completed the summer professional development. Second is the date that the letter of intent is received by the I-STEM Resource Network.

BENEFITS

The participating schools, upon execution of the Memorandum of Understanding will participate in the Indiana Science Initiative which is a K-8 science education program that provides the following benefits:

1. Use of research-based curricular materials that have been highly rated as aligned to important goals of K-8 teaching and learning identified by the Indiana Academic Standards for Science, focused on inquiry and activity as the basis of learning, helping students learn accurate science content, and significantly reducing the influence of cultural, racial, ethnic, gender, and age bias
2. Professional development for all teachers of science and representative school administrators to prepare all participants to utilize the curricular materials enhanced with literacy education with fidelity
 - a. Professional development includes summer institute work and professional networking and support through Learning Connection
3. Refurbishment of curricular materials completed by groups identified by the I-STEM Resource Network which will significantly reduce and/or eliminate this responsibility from the teachers, schools, and/or districts
4. Assistance for broad community support built up through state-level marketing and communication, policy advocacy, annual awareness events and district-based communication and family events
5. Feedback on achievement from a system aligned with state academic standards and the goals for ISI. The system will include unit-based assessments aligned with the content units and science process skills

The following is the information needed for consideration to participate in the Indiana Science Initiative:

1. Name of participating school: _____
2. Name of representative district for the participating school: _____
3. Anticipated percentage of students who will receive instruction in science with Indiana Science Initiative curricular materials with a teacher who has completed the summer professional development: _____
4. Date Letter of Intent Submitted: _____
5. Date Letter of Intent Received (completed by I-STEM): _____

Sincerely:

Principal's Signature and Date

Superintendent's Signature and Date