NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE

NPASS2
National Partnerships for After School Science

ABOUT NPASS

The *National Partnerships for Afterschool Science* (NPASS), based at Education Development Center, Inc. in Waltham, MA, has trained over 1,000 afterschool workers to lead hands-on, minds-on science and engineering projects throughout the school year at afterschool program sites in nine US states. Students from minority and under-served communities who attend 21st Century programs, YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs, community afterschool agencies, 4-H Clubs, faith-based organizations, and even the Department of Juvenile Services in one state are experiencing science and engineering in ways that can change their attitudes towards science and spark new interest in future careers in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) professions and trades.

TAKING AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE TO SCALE

The US faces a shortage of STEM graduates in the coming years. Women, African-Americans, Latinos and other ethnic minorities are chronically under-represented in the growing STEM professions. Achieving real and lasting change in the make-up of the national STEM workforce requires large-scale and innovative investments in science education—especially *afterschool* science. NPASS is funded by the ***National Science Foundation*** (NSF) to collaborate with the existing state-based afterschool infrastructure to put long-term science leadership training and support in place for large numbers of afterschool educators. In each NPASS state, hundreds of afterschool staff are being trained to lead high quality afterschool science projects. Many thousands of students from under-served populations are being impacted.

NPASS Numbers 2009–2012

Active NPASS states	9
Afterschool workshops delivered	>750
Afterschool workers trained	>1,000
Afterschool program sites served	~1,000
Elem/Middle students served	>30,000

NPASS Partner Agencies
California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC), Kansas Afterschool Network (KAN), Kentucky Out of School Alliance (KYOSA), Minnesota School Age Care Alliance (MNSACA), Missouri After School Network (MASN), Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (OCCRRA), Rutgers University 4-H Extension, NJ, The After School Institute, MD (TASI), University of New Hampshire 4-H Extension.

NPASS PROGRAM FEATURES

- *Design It!* and *Explore It!* Research-based science and engineering projects for children that align with state and national learning standards.
- In-state train-the-trainer institutes twice each year to prepare NPASS Afterschool Science Trainers to train and support afterschool staff.
- Regular project-based science workshops for afterschool staff led by NPASS Science Trainers.
- Training that focuses on science *process skills* and incorporates best practices in youth development.
- Guidance for afterschool administrators on integrating science projects into regular afterschool programming.
- Statewide afterschool technical assistance agencies promoting and supporting afterschool science.
- Advocacy at state and national levels for improved access to science projects in afterschool programs.

OBJECTIVES FOR AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE

Students…

- ***Enjoy*** doing science
- ***Experience*** science phenomena
- ***Understand*** science processes
- Adopt ***science process skills***
- ***Identify*** as science learners
- Consider advanced STEM ***study and careers***

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EDC Learning transforms lives.

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This project is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0917576. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.