

ABSTRACT

Making Sense of Science and Literacy (MSSL): Improving Teacher Effectiveness and Building Capacity

Through this five-year validation project, WestEd addresses absolute priority 1 — *improving the effectiveness of teachers* — by implementing a model for teacher learning that has a proven track record of strengthening teachers’ content knowledge, transforming classroom practices, and boosting student achievement, and subpart 2 — *extending highly effective teachers’ reach to serve more students* — by utilizing the Teaching Channel’s online Learning Labs platform to enable teacher leaders to facilitate peer-to-peer learning. In addition, the project addresses competitive priority 1 — *improving cost-effectiveness and productivity* — via a train-the-trainers model that has remarkably economical per-student costs, and competitive priority 2 — *enabling the broad adoption of effective practices* — by establishing regional hubs of school districts, higher education institutes, and partners from business and philanthropy. Outcomes include:

- **At least 60 highly effective teachers trained** to facilitate Making Sense of Science and Literacy PD across large urban districts and nearby rural schools in CA and WI.
- **More than 800 teachers** with stronger content knowledge and more effective pedagogy who **improve the science and literacy achievement of at least 20,000 elementary students.**
- **Important contributions to research with respect** to (a) the impact of MSSL scale-up on teacher effectiveness and student achievement, revealed by an RCT; (b) successful strategies for extending the reach of highly effective teachers; and (c) the utility of regional hubs in fostering scale-up, with insight into obstacles and supports.

Official LEA partners: The San Joaquin County Office of Education (California), and Milwaukee Public Schools (Wisconsin). Other partners: Empirical Education Inc., Heller Research Associates, the Teaching Channel, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.