Commitment Statement in support of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12

January 10, 2025

OpenSciEd is a values-driven organization that exists to make sure that every teacher has access to high quality instructional materials that are designed for standards based on the Framework for K-12 Science Education. Our work is rooted in the following core beliefs:

- Every child deserves a high quality science education. Pervasive systemic inequities have created an opportunity gap in our education systems that we can and must close.
- Universal high quality science education is a social imperative that builds the curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills needed to solve our greatest challenges.
- All students can excel in science with high quality science curriculum facilitated by teachers who have experienced the professional learning that unlocks the power of great materials.
- Science is exciting and people learn best through discovery. The beauty and wonder of science inspires students to lead in questioning, investigating, and solving problems.
- An impactful curriculum empowers the expertise and creativity of the teacher and is anchored in students' interests, educational needs, cultures, languages, and local contexts.

We know, however, that it takes much more than just high quality instructional materials to bring these core beliefs to life and, from its inception, OpenSciEd has worked to support the entire science education community. Our development process brings together state science leaders, expert learning scientists, curriculum developers, national science education leaders, and classroom teachers to develop, distribute, and support a complete set of robust, research-based, freely available,

openly licensed K-12 science instructional materials and associated professional learning resources.

This initiative is both lowering barriers to and advocating for schools' meaningful alignment of science instruction to Framework-based standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This includes the creation and wide distribution of core instructional materials at lower cost to schools and districts; freeing instructional materials budgets for use in supporting teachers with the curriculum-based professional learning necessary to implement high-quality instructional materials designed for the NGSS.

We are excited to collaborate with other organizations through BOSE's CASTL-K12 project to pursue four primary project goals:

- develop a coherent strategy for supporting implementation of science standards across states and districts,
- launch and coordinate a networked community of practice for stakeholders at all levels and across sectors,
- build on and share existing evidence-based policies, tools, and examples, and develop a coherent communication and engagement strategy for advancing K-12 science and engineering education broadly.

OpenSciEd commits to supporting the goals of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Action Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12.

Sincerely,

Jim Ryan
Executive Director