



Science Collaborative Frequently Asked Questions



1. What is the Region 4 Science Collaborative?

The Region 4 Science Collaborative is an ongoing professional development program that allows teachers to create a network across schools and districts, and receive resource materials, equipment and consumable items directly related to planned workshops and instructional meetings. Activities include Region 4 Science Collaborative sponsored workshops, instructional meetings, field trips to nearby locations in the Houston area, and conferences. During the 2014 – 2015 program, the professional development focus will be biology and life science, ELL/ESL Instructional Strategies, STAAR and EOC Preparation, Classroom Management, and Notebooking in the Science Classroom.

2. What are the goals of the Region 4 Science Collaborative?

The goals of the Region 4 Science Collaborative are to provide opportunities for teachers to share, model, and learn research-based best practices that lead to increased student Science STAAR achievement, improve the overall science content knowledge of the participating science teacher, and support effective implementation of Science TEKS objectives. The collaborative will accept and train approximately 30 Science Teacher Mentors, and recruit approximately 100 Cadre Members.

3. What is a Science Teacher Mentor (STM)?

A science teacher mentor (STM) is a participant of the Region 4 Science Collaborative that has committed to complete **100 hours of professional development**. Professional development goals are met by attending and actively participating in Region 4 Science Collaborative trainings, instructional meetings, conferences, and online professional development sessions that are related to enhancing the science teacher's content knowledge and understanding of instructional strategies.

4. Who is eligible to participate as a Region 4 Science Collaborative Science Teacher Mentor (STM)?

While any science educator may apply, all applications will be evaluated using a rubric. Applicants receive more points if they:

- teach science to students in middle or high school,
- are certified to teach science at the elementary, middle or high school level, **and**
- teach at Title I schools.

5. Are Science Teacher Mentors (STMs) eligible for stipends supplies, equipment, texts and resources?

Yes. Stipends, supplies, equipment, texts and resources will be made available at Region 4 Science Collaborative sponsored professional development sessions. Certain Region 4 Science Collaborative sponsored professional development sessions will be exclusive for STM audiences. STMs that are **present** will receive supplies, texts and resources as allocated for each workshop.

6. How do I become an STM?

Complete the 2014 – 2015 Region 4 Science Collaborative Science Teacher Mentor Application and submit it to Jennifer Wellman, Co-Project Director, by **May 9, 2014**.

7. What happens if I am not accepted as an STM?

You will eligible to become a cadre member.

8. What is a Cadre Member (CM)?

A cadre member (CM) is any participant of the Region 4 Science Collaborative that completes a minimum of 12 hours of professional development and/or mentoring/planning with a STM.



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9. Who is eligible to participate as a Region 4 Science Collaborative Cadre Member (CM)?

Any informal educator, science professor, campus/district administrator, science coordinator/facilitator, or science teacher is eligible to participate as a cadre member. Pre-service teachers are also eligible to participate as a cadre member. Participants are to complete a participant data form when attending a workshop for CMs.

10. Are Cadre Members (CM) eligible for supplies, equipment, texts and resources?

Yes. Supplies, texts and resources will be made available at select Region 4 Science Collaborative sponsored professional development sessions designated for STM **and** CM audiences. CMs that are **present** will receive supplies, texts and resources.

11. May a STM invite another science teacher to join or attend the Region 4 Science Collaborative as a Cadre Member (CM)?

Yes. STMs may invite their science teacher colleagues from their campus, district or nearby districts to join the Region 4 Science Collaborative. Any participant at a Region 4 Science Collaborative training that is not a STM will be required to complete a participant data form. The participant data form automatically enrolls the teacher as a CM. Please note: Those trainings that are designated for STM audiences should not be extended to others that are not selected as STMs in the Region 4 Science Collaborative.

12. Are there other Science Collaboratives in the Houston area?

Yes. There are 5 additional Collaboratives in the Houston area. Please see the website, www.thetrc.org for further information. Each collaborative has unique eligibility and program requirements that must be fulfilled by a participating STM or CM.

13. Can I participate in more than one Science Collaborative?

No. A teacher that joins more than one collaborative as **a STM** is obligating themselves to achieve 100 professional development hours for **both** collaboratives. The same professional development hours cannot count toward two or more collaboratives.

14. How much time is required?

Science Teacher Mentors must attend 100 hours of professional development between May 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015. Cadre members must attend a minimum of 12 hours of professional development between May 1, 2014 and May 31, 2015. Region 4 Science Collaborative trainings will occur during the summer, online, in the evenings, and on Saturdays. The 100 hour professional development commitment is accrued by attending Region 4 Science Collaborative trainings (minimum of 88) **and** training/mentoring/planning meetings with CMs (up to 12 hours), **and** online professional development trainings (maximum of 20 hours). STMs are also required to share information with cadre members (CMs) on their campus, in their district, or in their professional network. The Region 4 Science Collaborative will publicize Region 4 Science Collaborative sponsored professional development sessions via the Region 4 website.

15. Will my district be reimbursed for substitute teachers that teach my class while I am at training sessions?

No. There are a limited number of days that a teacher will need a substitute. Release time is part of the partnership commitment from the district for the science collaborative.

16. When I receive materials, who do the materials belong to?

Items received at Region 4 Science Collaborative sponsored professional development sessions belong to the trained teacher and should be used to implement ideas and content presented in the training and to fulfill the intended purposes of the Region 4 Science Collaborative grant (see question 2). Teachers from private schools will not receive materials.