What is Science Matters?

Science Matters is an initiative by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) to bring content, news, and information that supports quality science/STEM education to parents and teachers nationwide. Science Matters builds on the success of the Building a Presence for Science program, first launched in 1997 as an e-networking initiative to assist teachers of science with professional development opportunities. Building a Presence for Science—now Science Matters—reaches readers in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

Why does Science Matter? Science is critical to understanding the world around us. Most Americans feel that they received a good education and that their children will as well. Unfortunately, not many are aware that international tests show that American students are simply not performing well in science when compared to students in other countries. Many students (and their parents!) believe that science is irrelevant to their lives. Innovation leads to new products and processes that sustain our economy, and this innovation depends on a solid knowledge base in science, math, engineering, and technology (STEM). All jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science. The most recent ten year employment projections by the U.S. Labor Department show that of the 20 fastest growing occupations projected for 2015, 15 of them require significant mathematics or science preparation to successfully compete for a job. This is why Science Matters. Quality learning experiences in the sciences—starting at an early age—are critical to science literacy and our future workforce. Our mission is to achieve science literacy for all students through standards-based teaching and learning, supported by a network of Points of Contact in every school building in the nation.

Program Goals:

• To create and maintain a network of Points of Contact in every school in the country.
• To advocate and promote standards-based STEM teaching and learning.
• To provide resources, including national and state standards, and professional learning opportunities to promote and enhance teacher quality.
• To implement and encourage the use of interactive social network and communication tools to enhance the sharing of information.
• To increase vertical communication among K-12 science/STEM educators.
• To ensure every student has the opportunity to learn from a qualified teacher.

For general information, visit [http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/](http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/)

If you are interested in becoming a Point of Contact visit: [http://bap.nsta.org/](http://bap.nsta.org/)

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