

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

— Implementing Exemplars Science —

For more than two decades, Exemplars has worked with schools and districts to integrate performance-based assessment and instruction into science curriculum. Below are specific lessons learned that can help ensure your students' and school's success in developing conceptual understanding while utilizing the skills of inquiry, engineering and communication.

1. GET PRINCIPAL SUPPORT

- When principals and school administrators expect programs to be utilized and define standards for accountability, programs have a much higher success rate.

2. EMBED SPECIFIC TASKS DIRECTLY INTO YOUR SCIENCE CURRICULUM SCOPE AND SEQUENCE FOR EACH GRADE

- Place specific tasks directly into your pacing guide.
- Develop a regular rhythm and routine. Establish how often and when inquiry-based investigations should be utilized.
- Define how many tasks teachers should do per week, month, unit and year.

3. USE THE EXEMPLARS ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

- Our standards-based rubric criteria defines the skills of strong scientists.
- Our student anchor papers are annotated and include task-specific assessment notes. These summaries describe why each piece of student work is assessed at a specific performance level.
 - These tools are meant to provide guidelines for teachers as they assess their own students' work.
 - Our anchor papers provide both students and teachers with examples of what high-quality work looks like.



4. USE ANCHOR PAPERS IN STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Incorporate Exemplars student anchor papers as part of your next staff development session. As a team, use the Exemplars Assessment Rubric to score individual pieces of work taken from our Science Library. Compare your scores to ours. Compare your scores to each other's.
- Scoring calibration can lead to insightful conversations about areas of focus for instruction, feedback and curriculum initiatives.

5. BRING STUDENT WORK TO STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Ask teachers to bring full class sets of their students' work.
- Take a professional look at how students are doing. Look for patterns in areas of strength, areas to focus on for improvement, and define next steps for teachers, grades and the school.
- Review 3-4 sets of student work per year. Find areas of growth, reasons to celebrate, and areas to improve.
- Set goals for next steps with your students.

6. REVIEW THE GETTING STARTED MATERIALS IN THE EXEMPLARS SCIENCE LIBRARY

- Created by teachers, our Getting Started materials, and classroom resources provide guidelines and support for how to use inquiry-based performance tasks.

7. SHARE ANCHOR PAPERS AND KID-FRIENDLY RUBRICS WITH STUDENTS

- Each science task includes annotated student work samples at the four performance levels of our rubric.
- These valuable resources demonstrate and explain for students what it looks like to meet (and not meet) the standard.

8. BRING AN EXEMPLARS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT TO YOUR SCHOOL

- Exemplars workshops help strengthen educators' teaching practices by offering effective instructional and assessment techniques for performance-based learning.
- Our science sessions present the skills needed to help teachers become successful with inquiry-based learning, performance tasks and formative assessments.
- For two decades, our workshops have helped thousands of teachers bridge the gap between the written standards and classroom application.