



FAQ's Follow-up on Questions from May 14th, 2011 Teacher Orientation

Topics	FAQ	Response
IMSS Program	What is the accountability with PLC? Lesson Study?	<p>There will be a clearly documented process and product requirement presented during the summer institute. Teachers will be expected to participate monthly in a lesson study and stipends will be tied to participation. Lack of participation will result in teachers being dropped from the program. Teachers will be allowed to work with their team to set up their monthly schedules for the lesson study. All teachers will be required to teach the research lesson and be part of the observation and revision of the lesson.</p> <p>IMSS coaches, Exploratorium staff and CSU faculty will help facilitate these meetings and document agendas and notes of the work being done in these meetings.</p>
	What will be my role in year 2?	<p>The first year in IMSS will be directed on working as a lesson study team to understand the process and refine your practice. The second year will eventually incorporate other site/district science teachers as a professional learning community with</p>

IMSS Program		you as the teacher leader for lesson study. In year two teacher leaders will be encouraged to provide at least one professional development for the district or site based on what they have learned and produced during the IMSS program. Teacher leaders will also co-develop the 2 nd year of the IMSS program to meet their professional development priorities.
	What are the other schedule meetings?	The quarterly Saturday meetings are tentatively scheduled for October 1st, December 3rd, March 3rd, and April 28 th of the 2011-2012 school year. Monthly Lesson Study meeting locations and times will be determined by you and your team.
	What is the structure of the summer institute? Other PD sessions? And location? <u>Related question:</u> How much time will be spent on content? How much time will be spent on pedagogy?	The structure of the summer institute will involve morning sessions of science inquiry and science pedagogy. The afternoon sessions will be a continuation of these PD threads interwoven within the content sessions lead by the CSU science faculty. The content session topics will be determined by participants starting in year 2. As to other PD sessions, the quarterly meetings will be focused on lesson study and science inquiry. Most PD meetings will be held at CSUEB.
	How will I use inquiry based activities when the focus is on informational/conceptual?	During the Summer Institute, we will model inquiry activities and discuss strategies that bridge the gap between science process and content attainment.

Professional Learning Communities	<p><u>Related questions:</u> How to set up inquiry for 35-37 students? How to scaffold and differentiate?</p>	<p>In addition, you will have the support of IMSS coaches who will work with you during the school year regarding implementation in your classroom. Our philosophy is that we should be making subtle shifts in our instruction and we realize that teacher context and students vary significantly.</p>
	<p>How will PLC function?</p>	<p>The IMSS program will be focused on Lesson Study and developing and refining a set of lessons each year. However, the IMSS coaches and science faculty can collaborate and assist you and your school administrator to support the development or enhancement of a science PLC.</p> <p>During the first year the monthly meetings will likely be district based due to the fact that you will be mostly collaborating with teachers in your district who teach the same content area. We will work with sites to differentiate the PLC's to meet and align with your sites individual needs and existing structures and processes.</p>
	<p>Where, when, and how often will PLCs meet?</p> <p><u>Related question:</u> Do we also meet at our school during our common planning time? When will I meet with my school colleagues?</p>	<p>In the second IMSS year, the PLC's or lesson study groups could be school or district based, but most will be district based due to how the IMSS teams are configured for content teams. The location and time of science PLC meetings may be adapted to existing school structure and constraints. For example, schools that have collaboration time can establish a dedicated monthly science PLC.</p>

Lesson Study		It is our hope that after the 2011-2012 school year IMSS teachers will lead Science lesson study teams as part of site PLCs where possible. We hope that all science teachers from our participating schools will eventually be part of the IMSS program or as part of a lesson study team lead by our teacher leaders.
	How will lessons be used and shared once they are developed?	The lessons will be shared out on-line with all IMSS participating schools. Professional development sessions will also be recorded and available for use during staff professional development.
	Will mileage be reimbursed?	Along with a \$1,000 stipend for participation during the Summer Institute, an additional \$1,000 stipend is granted for the school year to cover your mileage and time. No particular reimbursement is available for mileage. Teachers will also get between a \$300 to \$500 budget for supplies.
	Do I get paid for lesson study time?	Teachers will be paid hourly for this time at a rate of about \$40 per hour up to a \$1,000 total stipend for lesson study participation during the school year.
Assessment/Data	Why did I take the test and will I get the results?	All NSF funded programs have a required research component. The concept inventory test given during the orientation is one of many multiple measures used as indicators of the IMSS program's effectiveness. The test is also used to help CSU faculty plan their summer professional

		development. Results will be provided and discussed with you during the summer institute.
	What data will be collected from classrooms?	Yes, student data will also be required. Your students will also be given the concept inventory test. Student work, lesson study, and researcher observations will be part of the data collected from the classroom. The data collected will be unidentified and untagged to protect the anonymity of the teachers and students. Student data will be shared and discussed with the teacher to help inform teachers practice. Data will not be shared with administration about any individual teacher.
	How does one measure teacher effectiveness objectively? Am I an effective teacher? How can I become one?	IMSS does not measure teacher effectiveness. The data will not be used for teacher evaluation in any manner. However, the results of your data and “unidentified” student data will be shared with you as a means of self-assessment. IMSS is interested in researching whether inquiry-based instruction and other pedagogical strategies can improve student learning in science and student attitudes towards science. We want to engage teachers as collaborative action researchers to try to continuously improve our practice and student experiences in our classrooms. We will use rubrics developed by the National Academy of Sciences for inquiry-based classrooms to assess changes in pedagogy.