

## NPASS2 Project Summary

NPASS (2005–2009) and NPASS2 (2009–2012) are professional development programs led by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), in Newton, Mass., and funded by the National Science Foundation's Informal Science Education program. The mission of both NPASS programs is to improve the quality and quantity of hands-on science available to children in out-of-school time programs by providing ongoing professional development and support to OST staff and other informal educators.

NPASS2 will train and support a cadre of new Science Trainers in eight US states [CA, GA, MD, MN, MO, NH, NJ, and OH] in partnership with existing OST networks in each state. NPASS Science Trainers will provide regular training and support to a cluster of OST programs in a city or county in order to enhance their ability to offer high quality science projects for their children as a regular aspect of their scheduled programs.



## The NPASS model features:

- High quality science engineering projects for children that align with school-based learning standards.
- National and state-based institutes twice each year that prepare and support NPASS OST Science Trainers.
- Mentors who support OST Science Trainers at the state level.
- Regular workshops and follow-up for OST staff conducted by NPASS Science Trainers.
- Training that incorporates best practices in youth development, with a focus on science “process skills”.
- Guidance for OST administrators on integrating science projects into their regular programming.
- Advocacy at state and national levels for improved access to science projects in OST.

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NPASS is the  
*National Partnerships  
for AfterSchool Science*



**Professional development and  
training for hands-on science\* in  
Out-of-School Time Programs**

EDC  
CENTER FOR *Science Education*

## The NPASS2 Model for Out-of-School Time [OST] Science\* Training

Informal educators and professional developers affiliated with state OST support agencies, science centers and 4-H extension agencies will attend twice annual, three-day Science Trainer Institutes in their state in order to qualify as NPASS Science Trainers. Trainers will then lead monthly, half-day workshops, over a period of at least one school year, for afterschool program staff and administrators.

At each workshop, NPASS Science Trainers will present a new hands-on science or engineering project and model strategies for successfully implementing the project with children. Trainers stress best practices in informal science learning and youth development with a focus on making science enjoyable and accessible to all children.

To qualify for NPASS training and support, afterschool program administrators must commit to paying their staff to attend NPASS workshops regularly and to recruiting a committed group of children (e.g., the "Explorers Club") to engage in science projects at least once a week, in a dedicated space at their site.

Trainers provide each afterschool site with a project guide, a materials list, and (where possible) a materials kit for each project. Trainers offer site visits and other support between trainings.

\* By "science" we mean to include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math [STEM]

## Taking NPASS to Scale [NPASS2 2009–2012]

**EDC and statewide OST agencies in California, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Ohio plan to build a new cadre of informal science trainers in each state over the next three years.**

**State OST leaders will host science trainer institutes and support the new NPASS Science Trainers as they train OST staff to lead high quality science projects with children.**

**For a schedule of training institutes visit**

<http://cse.edc.org/NPASS/>

### NPASS2 Curriculum

NPASS Trainers will use projects from these research-based curriculum series in their initial training and support of OST science:

*Design It! Design Engineering in Afterschool Programs.* EDC, Newton, Mass.

*Explore It! Science Investigations in Out-of-School Programs.* EDC, Newton, Mass.



## Feedback from the Field

*"[Our] outside evaluator was genuinely impressed with what she saw. She ended up staying far longer than scheduled because each minute she saw something else that impressed her. At one point she commented that "all [afterschool] programs should look like this". Everything that you and your [NPASS] staff point out to us at trainings concerning the approach to the session, questioning techniques, time allotment, reporting out etc. was noticed by the evaluator and commented favorably upon. She noted that it was obvious that the leader was well trained and seemed very comfortable in her role as leader"*

Jane Blanchette, Director  
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## NPASS2 Partners

- Boston Children's Museum
- California School-Age Consortium
- Georgia Afterschool Investment Council
- Goodman Research Group, Inc (evaluators)
- Minnesota School Age Care Alliance
- Missouri After School Network
- Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Agency
- Rutgers University Cooperative Extension, NJ
- Science Museum of Minnesota
- St Louis 4 Kids, MO
- St Louis Science Center, MO
- The After School Institute, MD
- U. New Hampshire Cooperative Extension



*This project is funded in part by the National Science Foundation, grant #ESI-0917567*