

The One8 Foundation is committed to preparing students for success in a rapidly changing, data-rich world. One8 works with leaders who are at the forefront of this work through the implementation of high-quality Applied Learning programs, such as OpenSciEd, PBLWorks, and Project Lead The Way.

The One8 Foundation is excited to announce the launch of the Applied Learning Leadership Institute.

The Institute will allow a cohort of school leadership teams to collaborate on expanding high-quality Applied Learning and shifting the cognitive demand to students through a series of facilitated sessions and visits to other schools showing strong Applied Learning practices. Teams, led by the Principal, will identify a local problem of practice, work through cycles of designing, piloting, and iterating on a set of strategies that respond to the problem, and analyze student impact data. In addition, teams will participate in two school visits designed to spur creativity and new thinking. Leaders should expect to spend 7-8 days out of their buildings over the course of the 2023-24 school year, including 2 summer days.

Why should you apply?

- Collaborate with other highly activated schools, aiming to enhance Applied Learning student outcomes
- Receive support to design instructional strategies that shift the cognitive demand to students
- Engage with experts to learn change management strategies to ensure your instructional prototypes permeate throughout your school
- Feel reenergized and inspired by visiting innovative Applied Learning schools outside Massachusetts

What will you do?

- Identify a problem of practice, brainstorm theories of action, and design an aligned pilot
- Complete a prototype and iteration cycle through facilitated design sessions
- Learn about and apply change management strategies to enhance the development of your prototype and inform your iteration approach
- Participate in instructional rounds during local and national school visits to see what Applied Learning practices you could transfer to your school

Who is eligible?

- Teams from **public middle and high schools** in Massachusetts that have active OpenSciEd, PBLWorks, and/or Project Lead The Way programs
- Strong candidates will have a proven track record of implementing high-quality Applied Learning programs and a desire to see instructional practices from these programs expand to other grade levels/content areas

Your commitment:

- Attendance at all Institute events by the 3-person team, led by the Principal (7-8 days during the year)
- Completion of all pre-work, data collection, reflections, and feedback forms
- Execution of a 7-month pilot that responds to your team's problem of practice
- Willingness to work collaboratively with a set of 10-12 school teams committed to similar goals of enacting meaningful instructional change, stretching beyond the pilot

APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 14TH

[Click here to Apply!](#)

All Institute schools will receive mini grants of \$5,000 to cover costs related to pilot design and implementation. All Institute expectations must be met to receive the funds. The One8 Foundation will provide funding to cover flights, hotel rooms, transportation between sites, and meals during school visits and full-day sessions, as applicable, at no cost to school teams.

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When are applications due?** Applications are due July 14, 2023.
- 2. How do I apply?** To apply for the Institute, please visit <https://mass-stemhub.org/2023-applied-learning-leadership-institute-application/> to access the online application.
- 3. What makes an application competitive?** Strong applicants will be school leadership teams, led by the Principal, who are highly committed to accelerating Applied Learning outcomes for all students. Applicants will speak to Applied Learning practices already happening in their schools and express a strong desire to transfer these tenants to other classrooms. In addition, strong candidates will express a steadfast belief that collaboration will be beneficial to the work and will be willing to collaborate past the pilot.
- 4. Can we edit our application after it has been submitted?** The portal allows you to log in, save changes, and make adjustments at any point in the process before clicking "Submit."
- 5. Who should be on my team?** Required members include the Principal, a PLTW/OpenSciEd/PBLWorks champion, and one other team member of your choosing. Beyond the Principal and PLTW/OpenSciEd/PBLWorks champion, your third team member should be part of the school leadership team and have the time and ability to conduct informational observations of staff members.
- 6. What is Applied Learning?** Applied Learning is a pedagogical approach in which teachers facilitate rigorous and relevant learning by presenting challenging real-world problems for students to solve through research, driving questions, collaborative experimentation, problem-solving, and actionable feedback. Applied Learning is at its best when supported by leaders and authentic engagement from the broader community.
- 7. How is this work connected to PLTW/OpenSciEd/PBLWorks?** Strong implementation of these three programs allows students to experience strong Applied Learning opportunities. As such, these programs can be used as an example to help drive broader change throughout the school. Participants in the Institute will look for ways to leverage the strategies and characteristics of these programs to create more meaningful instruction for students.
- 8. What are design pilots?** Design pilots are small prototypes created in response to an identified problem of practice. They are meant to be quickly implemented, analyzed, and iterated upon. These rapid cycles allow for continuous improvement and can lead to large-scale changes over time. In addition, low stakes opportunities to learn from failure create chances for leaders to model a risk-taking, innovative mentality for staff. Schools will receive \$5,000 to offset implementation costs for the pilot.
- 9. What are the school visits?** All school teams will participate in two school visits. One will be an overnight out-of-state visit in Fall 2023. The second will be a one-day local visit in Spring 2024.
- 10. What if I want more information?** We strongly encourage interested individuals to join us on June 13th at 9am for a virtual information session. [Register here!](#) Or, send specific questions to Sissela Tucker, at stucker@one8.org.