

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 Discovery Program.**

The Discovery Program will allow school leadership teams to explore strong Applied Learning practices and reflect on opportunities to bring these practices back to their own schools. The program is centered around a set of energizing and thought-provoking school visits. These school visits will be dually focused-- designed to spur creativity and new thinking and provide immediately implementable strategies to improve your own Applied Learning programs. Leaders should expect to spend three days out of their school buildings over the course of the 2023-24 school year, including one overnight out-of-state school visit.

## Why should you apply?

- Get inspired by local and national schools that are at the forefront of Applied Learning work
- Connect with other like-minded Massachusetts school teams aiming to enhance Applied Learning student outcomes
- Have dedicated time to reflect with your leadership team on ways in which your school could drive towards your vision of Applied Learning

## What will you do?

- See innovative Applied Learning in action during local and national school visits
- Observe cutting-edge Applied Learning practices you could transfer to your school
- Coalesce around a shared definition of high-quality Applied Learning
- Reflect on strategies to improve Applied Learning at your school through guided debrief sessions

## 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 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 Discovery Program events by the 3-person team, led by the Principal (3 full days, including one that requires overnight out-of-state travel, during the year)
- Completion of all pre-work, reflections, and feedback forms
- Willingness to work collaboratively with a set of school teams committed to similar goals of enacting meaningful instructional change, stretching beyond the school visits

**APPLICATIONS DUE OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

[Click here to Apply!](#)

*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. All Discovery Program expectations must be met to receive the funds.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. When are applications due?** Applications are due October 20, 2023.
- 2. How do I apply?** To apply for the Discovery Program, please visit <https://mass-stemhub.org/8585-2/> 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 tenets to other classrooms. In addition, strong candidates will express a steadfast belief that dialogue with other school teams will be beneficial to the work.
- 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 standards-aligned 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 Discovery Program will look for ways to leverage the strategies and characteristics of these programs to create more meaningful instruction for students.
- 8. What are the school visits?** All school teams will participate in three school visits. Two will be local and grade-span specific. One will be an overnight out-of-state multi-school visit. Exact dates and locations forthcoming!
- 9. Why else should we participate in the Discovery Program?** Get energized and inspired by classrooms that are trying non-traditional pedagogical approaches. Discovery Program participants will also get priority consideration for Applied Learning Leadership Institute cohorts.
- 10. What if I want more information?** We strongly encourage interested individuals to join us on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am for a virtual information session. [Register here!](#) Or, send specific questions to Sissela Tucker, at [stucker@one8.org](mailto:stucker@one8.org).