

Michigan Science Leadership Academy (MSLA)

The Michigan Science Leadership Academy (MSLA) is a Michigan Mathematics and Science Center Initiative focused on providing statewide professional development and other services to support and improve the teaching and learning of science. MSLA coordinates statewide science materials development projects, teacher workshops, and dissemination efforts for the Network.



Michigan
Mathematics and
Science Centers Network

STATEWIDE PROJECT

In the 2006-07 school year:

- MSLA coordinated a major eight-month statewide effort in the 2006-07 school year to develop the Companion Documents for the Michigan High School Content Expectations in science (Michigan Merit Curriculum standards)
- The development of the Companion Documents was a collaboration among the Mathematics and Science Centers Network (via MSLA), the Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA), and the Michigan Department of Education
- Four 90-page Companion Documents—Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Physics—were produced, designed to clarify and support the content expectations so teachers can more effectively use them to assist students in mastering the science content
- Fifteen writers from across Michigan worked in four subject-matter teams to prepare the Companion Documents
- For each of the 410 subject matter expectations the teams wrote clarification statements (specific intent or clarification or key ideas about the expectation) and provided reference to an instructional example (exemplars of the type of instruction that can be effectively used to address the expectation)
- Hundreds of reviewers were recruited by MSLA through the various Michigan science and science education professional organizations to provide feedback for improvement of draft Companion Documents. The documents were then made more widely available on-line so more classroom teachers and others could offer their ideas about how to improve the material.
- The Mathematics and Science Center Network is working with the Michigan Department of Education to facilitate dissemination of and training on the Companion Documents
- The Network is a valuable resource for the Michigan Department of Education for developing, and then effectively disseminating materials to schools and teachers across Michigan
- MSLA is working with the Michigan Department of Education on a plan to develop similar companion documents for the grades K-7 content expectations

For more information about MSLA, contact
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For more information about the Companion Documents and content expectations,
go to Michigan.gov/mde
or contact Kevin Richard at the Michigan Department of Education
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