The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) is a member-driven organization of science educators who promote excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning. Research tells us that educators need at least 50 to 80 hours of professional learning experiences over the course of the year to make any substantive changes in their teaching practice. The NSTA Learning Center serves as a key online destination for science educators to identify, obtain, and certify professional learning experiences using quality NSTA e-learning resources and opportunities. These products can be combined so that teachers can receive hundreds of hours of personalized professional development and participate in our online professional learning community, sharing and discussing strategies and resource collections.

At the NSTA Learning Center, both members and nonmembers will find:

**Science Objects:** Free two-hour online interactive science content modules. Ninety-four free Science Objects are currently available.

**SciPacks:** Ten-hour interactive courses with an e-mail mentor and certification. Twenty-five SciPacks are currently available.

**SciGuides:** Thematically aligned lesson plans, web sites, student work samples, and simulations. Forty-two SciGuides are currently available.

**Web Seminars:** Ninety-minute live professional development experiences that use online learning tools to interact with leading scientists and education specialists. Web seminars are archived for viewing “on demand.” NSTA has reached over 15,000 participants with more than 300 seminars on a host of topics.

**NSTA Symposia, PDIs, and Summer Institutes:** Blended professional learning opportunities that begin at NSTA conferences or at key cities across the country during the
summer. Designed to enhance participants’ knowledge of both science content and pedagogy, these offerings are extended by several online follow-up experiences. At NSTA Conferences, NSTA has offered onsite professional learning opportunities in partnership with BCBS, CSME, K-12 Alliance/WestEd, McRel, NIH, NASA, NOAA, Sally Ride Science, the U.S. Forest Service, and NSTA authors.

**Enhanced Podcasts:** 2 to 60 minute segments. Available for immediate download, podcasts are perfect for teachers trying to keep pace with expanding scientific fields.

**NSTA e-Books & Journal Articles:** Publications from the renowned NSTA Press®, including more than a hundred e-books and more than 5,400 journal articles from the four NSTA journals.

**Online Courses:** Fee-based courses from NSTA and leading institutions offering science education online. NSTA’s five-week online short courses include live web seminars, online science simulations, graduate credit options, as well as interaction with Ph.D. instructors and experts from the field. Seven courses are now offered as part of NSTA’s suite of opportunities.

**SciLinks®:** SciLinks help science educators harness the vast resources of the Internet by connecting key textbook subjects to NSTA-approved web pages that enrich student learning both inside and outside the science classroom. Students can access vetted web pages that provide real-time information and new content on a host of science topics. Since its inception in 2000, more than 279,361 teachers and more than 1,083,828 students have used SciLinks.

**What Do Teachers Say About the NSTA Learning Center?**

Teachers who have become familiar with the Learning Center and have used its various resources have reported that they feel more competent and confident about the science content they are teaching. Only seven percent of teachers purchasing the NSTA SciPack on Force and Motion reported feeling very confident in teaching Force and Motion before completing the corresponding SciPack. After completion of the NSTA SciPack, 60 percent said they felt very confident in teaching the subject, 98 percent found that the SciPack content was relevant to their needs, and 98 percent found interactive simulations worthwhile to their learning. Additionally, 96 percent of those respondents said they would recommend NSTA SciPacks to their colleagues.

Two additional studies conducted by third-party groups found similar significant gains in teacher self-efficacy and science content knowledge across seven different SciPacks with teachers from grades 3–8. In one study that looked at pre/post assessment data, students in the treatment group, whose teachers completed and passed SciPacks as part of their professional development, reported significantly higher gain scores than those students in the control group. For a complete list of testimonials, visit [http://learningcenter.nsta.org/impact](http://learningcenter.nsta.org/impact).

**Featured SciPack Science Standards Topics**

Teachers can take advantage of over 9,900 professional learning resources and opportunities on a number of topics at the NSTA Learning Center. The Learning Center continues to expand its offerings and tools and to upgrade usability of the site.

- Atomic Structure
- Cell Division and Differentiation
- Cell Structure and Function
- Cells and Chemical Reactions
- Chemical Reactions
- Coral Reef Ecosystems
- Earth, Sun, and Moon
- Earth’s Changing Surface
- Electric and Magnetic Forces
- Energy
- Explaining Matter With Elements, Atoms, and Molecules
- Flow of Matter and Energy in Ecosystems
- Force and Motion
- Gravity and Orbits
- Heredity and Variation
- Interdependence of Life
- Nature of Light
- Nutrition
- Ocean’s Effect on Weather and Climate
- Plate Tectonics
- Resources and Human Impact
- Rocks
- Science of Food Safety
- The Solar System
- Universe

**NSTA Learning Center State/District Partnerships**

- Arlington County Public Schools, VA
- Cincinnati Public Schools, OH
- Clark County School District, NV
- Forsyth County Schools, GA
- Hawaii Department of Education, HI
- Houston Independent School District, TX
- Jefferson County Public Schools, TN
- Milwaukee Public Schools, WI
- School District of the City of Erie, PA
- Teacher Academy in the Natural Sciences, MS
- Washington, DC Public Schools, DC

Our District Partnership Learning Center model continues to expand with more than 140 unique cohorts of teachers from school districts across the country.