

VERMONT SCIENCE INITIATIVE
Leadership Academy

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION AND COVER SHEET

Applications will be reviewed as received. First announcement of acceptance into Leadership Academy participants late May. Additional applications accepted until program is full.

Only complete applications will be considered. A complete application includes:

- _____ Application for Enrollment
- _____ Part I: Personal Statement.
- _____ Part II: Principal Statement
- _____ Part III: Superintendent Statement

Please send your complete application to:

Ms. Cathy Higley
The Graduate Office
Johnson State College
337 College Hill
Johnson, VT 05656

Contact Information:

For Administrative questions please contact:

Elizabeth Dolci, Ph.D.
VSI Program Director
802-635-1482
Elizabeth.Dolci@jsc.edu

For information about the program please contact:

Renee Affolter - VSI Project Co-Manager
Renee.Affolter@jsc.edu
802-793-2383

Or

Maura O'Brien – VSI Project Manager
mobrien@wested.org
802-951-8201

APPLICATION FOR ENROLLMENT
The Vermont Science Initiative
Leadership Academy

Name of Applicant _____

School _____

School Address _____

Grade Level/Position _____

Experience in teaching K-8 _____

Other teaching experience _____

Area of licensure _____

Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees _____

Home Mailing Address _____

School Telephone _____ Home Telephone _____

E-mail _____ Fax Number _____

Part I:

To be completed by applicant.

Answer the following to the best of your ability. Feel free to add any additional information that you wish to have included with your application. Please type your responses and attach them to this page.

1. Provide a written statement of no more than two single-spaced pages which addresses the following questions: a) what are your personal and professional goals with regards to science education, 2) what you hope to learn during the leadership academy; and c) what contributions your presence will bring to the VSI program.
2. Indicate your professional development experience in science.
3. Have you had opportunities to serve in a leadership capacity in your school district? If so, please describe. If not, please describe how you think that this program might benefit you in this regard.

I understand the following:

- The VSI Leadership Academy is a 13-15 credit graduate program and will require a time commitment on my part that includes three to four weekends (Friday/Saturday) of class meetings per semester during the academic year. It will also entail 4-6 credits of science content work during a summer. My attendance may also be required for additional afterschool leadership and mentoring activities.**
 - I am to arrange periodic meetings with my “mentor teacher leader.”**
 - I am committed to serving in a leadership role in science in my school/district.**
 - I will participate in all aspects of the evaluation of the VSI program that are requested, including but not restricted to: surveys, interview, classroom observations, and access to student NECAP scores.**
 - My school/district and I are responsible for payment of tuition for the 13-15 graduate credits.**
-

Signature of Applicant

Date

Part II: To be completed by applicant's school *principal*.

In order for a teacher to participate in this program, his/her school principal must indicate how this professional development will support the implementation of the local action plan for raising student performance in science. Please attach your responses to this sheet.

Name of Teacher _____

Name of Principal _____

1. Please check either A or B. If neither applies please describe what your school/district is doing in regard to an action plan.
___ A. Our school/district already has an action plan in place for science. (Please provide a copy of the relevant parts of your action plan.).
___ B. Over the next year our school/district will put an action plan in science in place.
2. Since the goal of this project is to develop school/district-based teacher leaders, please describe the potential professional development roles the applicant might fulfill in your school.
3. Describe the qualities this applicant possesses that would make her/him a strong candidate for participation in this project.
4. What specific training do you, as an administrator, need in order to assess high quality standards-based science?

I fully support the participation of the applicant in the Vermont Science Initiative. I understand the responsibilities of the school/district include:

- providing release time for the teacher's participation in VSI coursework.
 - payment of 3-6 graduate credits for each year of the teacher's participation in the VSI's Leadership Academy program.
 - active support by me or other designated school administrator including attendance at occasional meetings.
 - developing a strategy with the assistance of the VSI's teacher leadership coordinator to utilize the participant's leadership in the implementation of the local action plan for raising student performance in science.
 - participation in all aspects of the evaluation of the VSI program that are requested, including, but not restricted to: surveys, interview, classroom observations, and access to student NECAP scores.
-

School Principal

Signature

Date

Please return this information to the applicant. First announcement of acceptance into Leadership Academy participants late May. Additional applications accepted until program is full.

Part III: To be completed by applicant's district *superintendent*.

The superintendent of the participant's school district must indicate how this professional development will support the implementation of the local action plan for raising student performance in science. Please attach your responses to this sheet.

Name of Teacher _____

Name of Superintendent _____

1. Since the goal of this project is to develop school/district-based teacher leaders, please describe the potential professional development roles the applicant might fulfill in your district.
2. What support do you as a superintendent need in order to fully benefit from a science teacher leader in your district?

I fully support the participation of the applicant in the Vermont Science Initiative. I understand the responsibilities of the school/district include:

- providing release time for the teacher's participation in VSI coursework.
- payment of 3-6 graduate credits for each year of the teacher's participation in the VSI's Leadership Academy program.
- active support in the VSI by the participating teacher's principal or other designated school administrator.
- developing a strategy in collaboration with the VSI's teacher leadership coordinator to utilize the participant's leadership skills in the implementation of the local action plan for raising student performance in science.
- participation in all aspects of the evaluation of the VSI program that are requested, including, but not restricted to: surveys, interview, classroom observations, and access to student NECAP scores.

Superintendent

Signature

Date

Please return this information to the applicant. First announcement of acceptance into Leadership Academy participants late May. Additional applications accepted until program is full.

What is The Vermont Science Professional Development Initiative (VSI)?

- The VSI establishes a specific pathway to school leadership in science through a collaborative endeavor of science and education faculty of three Vermont State Colleges, and education specialists from both public and private agencies.
- The VSI is a comprehensive professional education program in science for licensed teachers to support standards-based science instruction in K-8 classrooms.
- The VSI will support the *Vermont Framework of Standards and Learning Opportunities and the National Education Standards* by providing a solid foundation in standards-based instruction through preparation in:
 - Science content
 - Pedagogical practices
 - Assessment strategies
 - Leadership
- The program is designed to build a cohort of skilled teachers of science who will serve as teacher-leaders in delivering professional development to colleagues within their schools/districts.
- To ensure systemic change in science education and sustainability of the teacher leader model in standards-based science instruction within a school/district, the active engagement of the school administrator in the VSI is required.

The VSI Leadership Academy is a second pathway to school leadership in science through a 13-15 credit program focusing in science pedagogy, science content, and leadership skills.

- Courses in science content are held in a two-week summer institute with additional follow-up in the weekend work in the fall. Alternatively, teachers may take two one-week content courses from the VSI Tier II program.
- Pedagogical content courses: Issues in Science Education, Educational Assessment, Leadership, and Action Research are held on weekend sessions during the school year.
- All courses feature the development of scientific inquiry, formative assessment, and teacher learning communities
- Teacher leadership is an expectation and an outcome of the program with formal training provided.
- Mentors will support teachers in their Leadership Academy coursework.

Coursework:

- Issues in Science Education
- Educational Assessment in Science Education
- Science Content Course (4-6 credits)
- Teacher Leadership

Estimated cost the VSI Leadership Academy: \$416/credit for 13-15 credits. Coursework can be completed over a 2 year or 3 year cycle.