The Regional Science Resource Center's mission is to improve K-12 science and mathematics education through systemic reform so that all students will reach their full potential.

Our goal is to support, encourage and provide expertise and materials to raise achievement levels of all students in science and mathematics through student-centered, inquiry-based learning.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Regional Science Resource Center at the University of Massachusetts Medical School began as a collaboration with teachers and administrators from schools in Massachusetts and Worcester Foundation scientists in November 1994.

In July 1997, the Worcester Foundation merged with the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS). The RSRC then became part of UMMS’ educational outreach efforts through the Office of School Services.

The RSRC helps teachers to implement more inquiry-based, student-centered science and mathematics in all classrooms by providing ongoing technical support, access to materials and equipment, space for scientific investigations, and professional development opportunities. All initiatives focus on supporting the implementation of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in Mathematics, Science and Technology/Engineering and making inquiry-based mathematics and science education a reality in classrooms.
Under the direction of the Regional Science Resource Center and an Advisory Board, the Central Massachusetts STEM Network increases the number of qualified STEM teachers, improves STEM educational offerings and increases student interest in STEM careers. The Network represents higher education institutions, business and industry, the regional workforce investment board, K-12 schools and school districts. The Network cultivates regional collaborations to reinvigorate all education stakeholders, to leverage existing resources and to provide STEM experiences for middle school teachers and students. The Network supports Innovation Month in the Worcester Public Schools and the STEM Expo at the Massachusetts Middle School Science & Engineering Fair. For more information, visit the STEM Network web site at:

www.umassmed.edu/stemcareerawareness.aspx

The STEM Fund was established by the legislature and is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Visit www.bhe.mass.edu to learn more.

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE RESOURCE CENTER WILL:

• Provide PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT offerings in standards-based mathematics and science instructional materials, assessment and teacher leadership.

• Provide a fully-equipped, state-of-the-art SCIENCE LABORATORY for class experiments, professional development for teachers, and independent student research.

• Provide facilitator training in the development of MATHEMATICS LEARNING COMMUNITIES which use student work as a means to connect professional development to classroom practice.

• NETWORK districts to solve common challenges.

• Loan standards-based science, mathematics and technology curricular materials for preview and evaluation from our CURRICULUM RESOURCE LIBRARY.

• Work with community groups to increase the ACCESS of underrepresented groups to science, mathematics, and technology.

• Partner with schools of education to elevate the TEACHER TRAINING EXPERIENCE.
HERE ARE EXAMPLES OF OUR SERVICES:

Network districts to solve common challenges

• AP Networks (Biology, Calculus, Chemistry)
  • High School Chemistry Network
• Central MA Curriculum Coordinators Network

Provide professional development offerings

• Math and science graduate level courses
  > Increasing Accessibility to Algebra & Geometry
  > Developing Student Conceptions in Physical Science
• Math Learning Community Facilitator Training
• MTEL test preparation in mathematics

Convene and facilitate groups that support improving math and science

• Central MA STEM Network
• Middle school science fair collaborations
• Inquiry-based science professional development

Provide a fully equipped state-of-the-art science laboratory for teacher and student use

• Middle and high school biotechnology experiments and activities
  • AP Biology—molecular biology labs
• Call Karin Spahl, Science Coordinator at 508/856-1529 for more information

Loan science and mathematics materials for classroom inquiry-based explorations for up to 8 weeks

• Foss and STC Science Units

THE CURRICULUM RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Curriculum Resource Library has mathematics and science standards-based curriculum materials, professional development books, and parent information resources that are available to borrow for up to eight weeks.

In order to borrow materials from the Curriculum Resource Library, you must call for an appointment. During your appointment you may spend time perusing the library yourself or request guidance on a specific topic. Please state your needs at the time you are arranging an appointment.
For more information and/or to schedule an appointment, contact:

Wendy Cleaves at 508/856-5348 or wendy.cleaves@umassmed.edu

Karin Spahl at 508/856-1529 or karin.spahl@umassmed.edu

or visit: http://www.umassmed.edu/rsrc

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE RSRC MAILING LIST, PLEASE EMAIL KARIN SPAHL AT karin.spahl@umassmed.edu