

Christopher D. Wilson
Director, Research
BSCS
5415 Mark Dabbling Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Dear Dr. Wilson,

With this letter, the Mercer County School District expresses its interest in participating in the study proposed by BSCS Science Learning, Science Teachers Learning from Lesson Analysis (STeLLA): Validation, Scaling, and Sustainability, building upon the successful STeLLA line of research. This project supports the district's goals of improving science education for all learners by providing the foundational, hands on experiences to see how science and engineering affects their lives in the world around them.

Mercer County School District recognizes the challenges of supporting elementary teachers who often do not have access to high quality science professional learning. We understand that the proposed project would provide professional development to 4th and 5th grade teachers in both science content and pedagogy, will engage teachers in cutting edge research in science teaching and learning, and will support their translation of that research into their classrooms. We are committed to long-term investments in teacher professional learning and will work with local leaders to sustain and expand use of the STeLLA approach in classrooms.

If funded, our district will provide an ideal venue to demonstrate that the STeLLA approach can result in widespread positive impacts on science teaching and learning. Mercer County School District has 1 elementary school, sixteen 4th and 5th grade teachers, and four hundred fifty 4th and 5th grade students per year, representing urban, suburban and rural populations. Our science team, lead by Instructional Coach Nekita Johnson, will work with BSCS to recruit the requisite number of teachers for the study and will involve school principals in supporting teachers' improvement efforts throughout the project.

Mercer County School District is a district that supports science education at all levels and is committed to providing the best possible education for all of our students and teachers. The proposed project with BSCS is an investment in the future of science education in Mercer County School District and we look forward to working with BSCS in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Miller, EdD
Instructional Supervisor
Mercer County Schools