



# Online Mentoring for Beginning Science Teachers

## What new science teachers have to say about eMSS

“Being able to communicate with the whole eMSS community through posts, I was able to find new activities to try in my classroom and ask questions when I was stuck. I appreciate how I can pose a question and quickly get many different educated responses.”

“Each Inquiry was very applicable to my classroom. They allowed me to focus on one aspect of my teaching, create an action plan and carry it out. Such a direct approach allowed me to take a large unmanageable problem and break it into manageable pieces. I was able to focus on a few things at a time, which made the whole first year much more bearable.”

## Program Description

eMSS was developed to empower the next generation of science teachers by providing content-focused mentoring through a national, online technology network. Through eMSS, new and veteran teachers collaborate in an interactive community to facilitate the exchange of information, ideas and experiences to advance high-quality science instruction for all students.

## Background

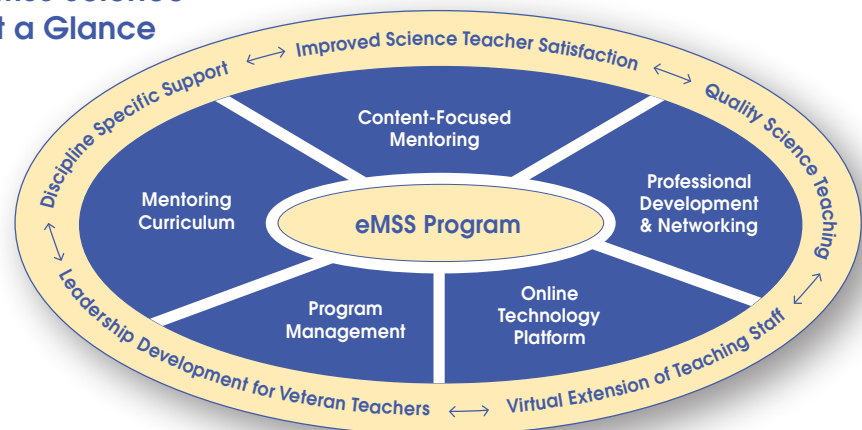
Initiated in 2002 with five years of support from the National Science Foundation, eMSS was developed through a strategic partnership and collaboration of National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA), New Teacher Center (NTC) at UCSC, and Montana State University's Science Math Resource Center (MSU). To date, eMSS has worked with over 1000 beginning teachers and 450 mentor teachers in all 50 states.

## Program Features

eMSS supports and extends mentoring for beginning science teachers, anytime, anywhere through flexible and accessible technology that is easy to learn and use. The eMSS network is designed to promote professional development through dialogue and offers:

- Science-focused mentoring program inclusive of training, stipends and program administration
- Beginning science teachers matched with a mentor who has experience teaching the same science discipline and grade level
- Facilitated online curriculum that focuses on science content and pedagogy that directly applies to the teacher's classroom
- Nationwide, online network of science educators and scientists that facilitates the exchange of information, ideas and resources
- Leadership and professional development opportunities for science teachers

## eMSS Science at a Glance



“Research shows that the quality of P-12 mathematics and science teaching is the single most important factor in improving student mathematics and science achievement.”\*

## Program Contacts

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## Executive Director

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## Program Benefits

We are committed to our clients’ success, and specifically dedicated to supporting the growth and development of science teachers. Beyond those high-level benefits, independent research conducted by Horizon Research, Inc. has shown that eMSS has had significant impact on:

- Preparedness to teach challenging courses and curricula
- Ability to teach content
- Preparedness in basic teaching and management skills
- Teacher satisfaction

## eMSS Program Participants

- eMSS Mentees
  - Beginning (1–3 year) middle and high school science teachers
  - Employed by eMSS participating districts, organizations and departments of education
  - Matched with a mentor with experience at the same grade level
- eMSS Mentors
  - Experienced middle or high school science teachers
  - Strong content area knowledge

- Evidence of exemplary teaching
- Mentor beginning science teachers
- Interact with a community of science teachers and content experts
- Receive stipends

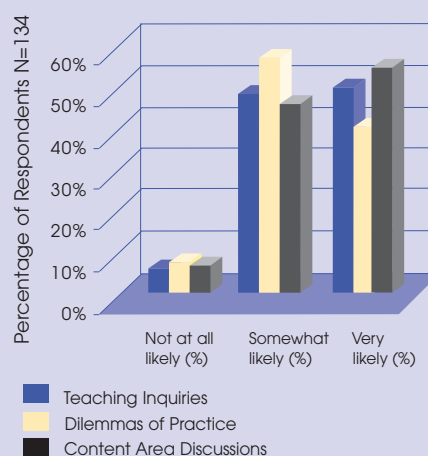
- eMSS Content Experts
  - Responsible for monitoring, leading and promoting content-specific discussions on the eMSS web site
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## The Opportunity

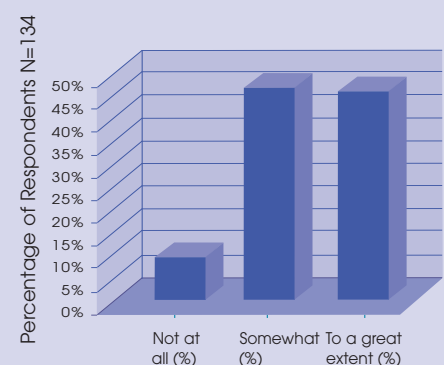
If you are passionate about science education and would like to provide eMSS online mentoring to beginning science teachers in your school district or organization, we would like to hear from you! Please contact us so we can discuss the opportunity further.

Registrations for the 2010–11 school year are now being accepted. For more information on eMSS visit [www.newteachercenter.org/emss](http://www.newteachercenter.org/emss).

Likelihood that eMSS Components Enhance Mentee Ability to Teach Science



Extent to Which Participation in Content Area Improved Mentee Understanding of Content



– Horizon Research eMSS Evaluator Report, 2005–06

\*K. Carey, *The real value of teachers: Using new information about teacher effectiveness to close the achievement gap*. *Thinking K–16*, Winter 2004.