

# CDC Science Ambassador Fellowship

The CDC Science Ambassador Fellowship (SAF) inspires interest among the nation's future public health scientists by supplying middle and high school teachers and their students with an orientation to applied epidemiology and public health. We provide professional development to teachers, and collaborate with them to create core resources and competency-based curricula for their colleagues around the world to use—supporting the growing demands of STEM education to improve science and health literacy and ignite student interest in public health as a career choice.



## What We Do

- Provide high-quality **professional development** for teachers.
- Develop resources, tools, and competency-based lesson plan activities designed to introduce the science of public health and epidemiology to middle and high school students in partnership with teachers and education-based organizations.

We reach **middle and high school teachers and their students** by working with

- CDC programs
- Partner organizations
- State and local health departments
- State and local teachers associations.

Since 2004, we have trained



**500+ STEM teachers**

in epidemiology and public health exposing an estimated **1 million students** across **40 U.S. states.**



“The CDC Science Ambassador program was **one of the best professional development programs** I have ever been a part of. It provided me with epidemiology and public health content knowledge, and the opportunity to work alongside CDC experts and fellow educators to develop relevant and engaging lessons.”

-Sarah Sletton, PhD, MS, Associate Professor, Mayville, North Dakota, 2017 CDC Science Ambassador

## How We Work

- Conduct the **CDC Science Ambassador Fellowship**, a year-long professional development for teachers and educational leaders, including a 5-day summer course at CDC Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. The program provides ongoing, dynamic training in curriculum design and teaching strategies that engage students in science, using real-life epidemiology and public health science examples. SAF staff and CDC scientists collaborate with fellows throughout the year to produce ready-to-go classroom lesson plan activities aligned with national science standards. The classroom activities are added to the publicly available online resource collection website.
- Provide two-day **regional trainings** for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teachers, in collaboration with schools and programs of public health, at 1-3 sites across the United States each year. The regional trainings provide an opportunity to reach teachers who currently teach in underserved communities.
- Maintain an **online resource collection**, which provides free teaching materials, tools, and lesson plan activities that teachers use to introduce students to basic scientific concepts, provide them with experience in data analysis and interpretation, and promote critical thinking.

**40%** of alumni teach **underserved students** who attend schools receiving Title 1 funding.

## Our Impact

- **We are unique.** The SAF partnership between CDC and education-based organizations is one-of-a-kind, solely focused on teachers, students, and future public health workforce development. It has expansive reach to teachers and students across the nation and the globe. Our focus is on developing awareness of and interest in public health and supporting a strong early science foundation for the health workforce of the future.
- **Our materials are free and easily accessible.** The online resource collection website is a major distribution channel for quality epidemiology and public health educational materials. Teachers visit the site to find lesson plans, activities, and other teaching aids that have undergone rigorous review by CDC subject matter experts. Teachers can adapt the materials to a variety of teaching methods and approaches.



**“My school is very limited**, so I decided to use the material found in an epidemiology class to support the standards I teach in biology. I am going to **support my entire curriculum using public health** case studies, emergency response plans, as well as data, articles, and lesson plan activities found on the CDC Science Ambassador program website.”

**-Jessica Popescu, Teacher, Topeka, Kansas  
2016 CDC Science Ambassador**

Visit our website  
[www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/scienceambassador](http://www.cdc.gov/careerpaths/scienceambassador)