



French River Education Center, Inc.
672 Main Street - Post Office Box 476
North Oxford, Massachusetts 01537

WWW.FREC.ORG

General Science Teachers, 5-8..... **DO YOU NEED TO EARN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LICENSE?**

You should know that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has approved a number of district based programs throughout the state to offer an alternative pathway to professional license...*one that does not require a Masters degree.*

French River Education Center (FREC), of North Oxford, is a DESE approved site and currently offers four (4) *Professional License Programs:*

- ~**Early Childhood Education, PreK-2/3**
- ~**Elementary Education, Grades 1-6**
- ~**Teachers of Students with Moderate Disabilities, Grades PreK-8/9; and 5-12**
- ~**Math, Grades 5-8**

Norfolk County Teachers Association (NCTA) is also a DESE approved site and offers *Professional License Programs* in, among other areas, **Middle School (Grades 5-8) General Science.**

What do the NCTA and FREC programs have in common? Each program requires the professional license candidate to take *common core advanced content courses in math and literacy as well as 50 hours of mentoring beyond the induction year.* General science teachers, however, are required to take a third course--*general science/biology*—for professional license. In the past, professional license candidates in general science would have to travel to Canton to take these science courses. **Framingham State University (FSU)** awards the credits for the program's graduate level courses.

For your convenience, NCTA and FREC are collaborating to offer area general science teachers the opportunity to earn their professional license with FREC serving as the field site for the delivery of both the common core advanced content courses—literacy and math---the 50 additional mentoring hours, as well as *also hosting the general science course.* **All program courses will be held at Oxford High School.** *Since they are the approved site, NCTA will endorse the program completers for professional license based on the information FREC provides on program completers.*

To be eligible for this program:

- ~*you must already hold an initial license in general science, 5-8;*
- ~*you must be employed as a teacher working in the role of your initial license (general science, grades 5-8); and*
- ~*you must have completed your induction (mentoring) year or will complete your induction year by June 2011.*



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FREC, in collaboration with NCTA and Framingham State University (FSU), is **now accepting registrations** from general science teachers for a **June 2011 start** in a convenient, low cost, high quality program that satisfies the DESE's program requirements for professional license.

As you know...the DESE requires those teachers holding an initial license to earn a professional license in the same field ***within five years of hire***. If you hold an initial license in **general science, grades 5-8**, and are looking for a low cost, alternative pathway to professional license, ***one that does not require a Masters degree***, then this program may be of interest to you.

Should you decide to enroll in this NCTA/FREC program, you will start in June 2011, with required seven day, 8:00a.m. - 3:30 p.m., general science course, also at Oxford High School. (**NOTE: Regarding the week-long summer science course, you will take a 3 credit, FSC course titled "Implementing the Massachusetts Frameworks for Science & Technology" in the morning and in the afternoon, you will take a 1 credit, FSC course "Biology Concepts and Teaching" which gives you, in total, the four (4) graduate credits in science that you need for your professional license.**) In September 2011, you will take a literacy course, also at Oxford High School, and in January 2012, you would take the required math course to complete your program requirements.

At the conclusion of the program, NCTA will accept a transcript from FREC documenting the candidate's completion of the common core courses—literacy and math---as well as the 50 completed mentoring hours (**NOTE: 25 hours of mentoring is included with the literacy course and 25 hours of mentoring is included in the math course**), and the summer science courses. Upon acceptance and review of the documentation from FREC, NCTA, as the DESE approved site for general science, will endorse successful program completers for professional license.

Where do I take these courses? The math and literacy courses are offered by FREC and will be held at Oxford High School one night a week during the January and September semesters respectively, for 15 weeks, from 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The site for the 7 day summer course will also be Oxford High School. Again, following this schedule, you will complete your professional license requirements in mid-May 2012.

Cost? The NCTA/FREC professional licensure program in middle school general science requires **just** three graduate courses. You pay for each course—current tuition is \$1,100 per course--as you go. Tuition and related expenses (application fee, texts, and license fee), based on current costs, should total less than \$3,500 for the program. (**NOTE: FSC sets tuition and this could change.**) Compare this to having to take 10-12 graduate courses at a cost of \$14,000 - \$16,000, plus on campus fees, for a Masters degree. *You save time and money with our approved professional licensure program.*



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VERY IMPORTANT.....As far as the DESE is concerned, *once you earn your professional license, you do not have to get a Masters degree* unless you want to do so. Should you decide to get your Masters after earning professional license through FREC, you can pursue any field of study you choose---reading, special education, technology, administration, etc.---not just the same field as your initial license.

Interested? Want to learn more? Ready to enroll? If you would like to learn more about how you can earn your professional license in general science, 5-8, after **just** 3 FSC graduate courses, or you are ready to enroll and reserve a space in the June 2011 program, call Mike Fields, FREC, at 508-987-0219, ext. 101, or complete and return the form below. We will contact you once we receive this form.

FREC/NCTA Professional Licensure Program: **General Science, 5-8**

June 2011

(Please print clearly)

Name: _____ Telephone (H): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

School District: _____

Email address: _____

Kindly respond: *I hold an initial license in general science, 5-8, and am currently employed as a general science teacher, 5-8:*

_____ Yes _____ No

I completed my mentoring year in (Date): _____

or

I will complete my mentoring year by June 2011 _____

Choose the night you would like to attend class in the fall:

_____ For September 2011, I prefer the **Tuesday** cohort group for the required literacy course.

_____ For September 2011, I prefer the **Thursday** cohort group for the required literacy course.

Kindly complete and fax to 508-987-1396, attention Mike Fields.

Telephone: 508.987.0219

Fax: 508.987.1396