

Sun Associates Service Profile

STEM Program Evaluation – CitySprouts in Boston, MA

Through funding received from a variety of charitable foundations, non-profit educational organization CitySprouts (www.citysprouts.org) works with public schools in Boston and Cambridge to encourage the use of school gardens as a catalyst for hands-on STEM learning. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, CitySprouts has created an early science learning initiative that works with Boston and Cambridge to implement the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and PK-5 Science curriculum in both districts. Sun Associates (www.sun-associates.com) is the external evaluator for this effort that focuses on student learning, teacher professional development and family engagement.



The Early Start in Science Initiative engages teachers around using plants and other living organisms as a basis for teaching students about key concepts in science. Throughout the school year, students explore STEM subjects through hands-on inquiry using the CitySprouts-supported school garden as a living laboratory. Students are introduced to science subjects and develop a love of inquiry that research shows will form a life-long interest in exploring the world around them. Teachers learn how to encourage and support inquiry-based learning and how to leverage the natural curiosity of young children into a solid foundation for science.

Sun Associates designs program evaluations that can scale from small single district initiatives to large, multi-state/multi-year programs. Our evaluation work is intended to help programs formatively manage and improve their work as well as to be accountable to funders' benchmarks and outcomes. Sun Associates evaluators are highly engaged with projects and work as a constant presence and sounding-board throughout an initiative's program of work.

For the CitySprouts Early Start in Science Initiative, Sun Associates is working to observe professional development, provide formative feedback to CitySprouts staff and professional developers, observe classes, and interview teachers and administrators. Annual summative reports are created to inform the CitySprouts' program committee and to document progress to the various external funders of the Initiative.

Sun Associates works with organizations such as school districts, museums, libraries, and other educational non-profits nationwide to document progress and make recommendations for ongoing improvement. Let us know how we can help you.



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