

# THE NEW YORK STATE MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM

## What is the New York State Master Teacher Program?

Responding to the call to strengthen our nation's K-12 STEM education, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo launched the New York State Master Teacher Program (NYSMTP) in partnership with The State University of New York and Math for America. The program creates a state-wide network of the highest-performing STEM teachers dedicated to sharing their expertise with peers and attracting high school graduates to careers in STEM. Participating teachers receive \$15,000 stipends annually over four years.

## What defines a Master Teacher?

Master Teachers have been exposed to and grappled with ideas that are central to their STEM discipline at advanced levels. Like any scientist or mathematician, they view their knowledge as incomplete.

Master Teachers have a deep understanding of professional knowledge for teaching. They continually evaluate, refine, and adapt their practice to better meet the needs of students.

Master Teachers possess a deep knowledge of their students' communities, cultures, and values, and see a student's family and community as resources in their efforts to inspire them to study STEM subjects.

Master Teachers are strong classroom teachers committed to developing even further their knowledge of content, craft of teaching, and understanding of students.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must be:

- Certified & currently employed in a New York State public school, with a minimum of 4 years of experience teaching STEM disciplines.
- Have a current teaching load of at least 60% in STEM disciplines, grades 6-12.
- Have an Annual Professional Performance Review rating of effective or highly-effective.

"Each one of the master teachers brings a unique perspective, but all of us share one simple passion giving our students a great education."

—Master Teacher

## What do Master Teachers do?

As program participants, Master Teachers make a commitment to engage in professional development (PD) work in addition to their regular school responsibilities. Master Teachers meet regularly (evenings and weekends) to participate in activities that lead to individual and collective professional growth.

PD programming opportunities include three-session mini-courses. Mini-courses have addressed student research and emerging STEM subjects such as climate change and hydro-fracturing. Master Teachers have formed Professional Learning Teams around topics such as student research projects, expeditionary learning, the flipped classroom, and the Common Core. Master Teachers participate in leadership workshops to better contribute to departmental discussions and mentor early career and pre-service teachers. Master Teachers also participate in the Empire State STEM Learning Network, partnering with local businesses and agencies to better prepare students for STEM careers.

The NYS Master Teacher Program is hosted at 10 sites across the state. These sites serve as the home base of each region's activities and partner with educational institutions and organizations to provide a robust program tailored to the professional growth and development goals of Master Teachers.

- Capital Region: University at Albany
- Central New York: SUNY Cortland
- Finger Lakes: SUNY Geneseo
- Long Island: Stony Brook University
- Mid-Hudson: SUNY New Paltz
- Mohawk Valley: SUNY Oneonta
- North Country: SUNY Plattsburgh
- Southern Tier: Binghamton University
- Western New York: SUNY Buffalo State
- New York City: in partnership with Math for America

"The Master Teacher Leadership Training course helped me to adopt a fresh approach to running math department meetings, reconnect with my colleagues, analyze students' work while planning with other corps members, and bring a renewed energy into my classroom."

—Master Teacher

For more information on the program and how to apply, visit:  
[www.suny.edu/masterteacher](http://www.suny.edu/masterteacher)



# OUR PUBLIC IMPACT

Master Teachers are sharing best practices with pre-service teachers and STEM colleagues in their schools, districts, and across New York State.

## MASTER TEACHERS WORKING WITH PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS:

- Partnering with the **North Country Teacher Resource Center** based at SUNY Plattsburgh, Master Teachers have led workshops on topics including technology, Common Core Math, Annual Professional Performance Reviews, and issues of poverty.
- Capital Region Master Teachers designed and host **"Mentor Mondays"** to provide timely mentoring advice to pre-service teachers from SUNY Albany, The College of St. Rose, and The Sage Colleges.
- Master Teachers are **partnering with science and mathematics education faculty** at Stony Brook University, Buffalo State, Binghamton University, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Oneonta, and SUNY Plattsburgh to support education majors in their coursework. Some are joining classes to share their expertise on a variety of topics including science literacy, cooperative learning, and differentiated instruction, and others are designing new ways to meet the needs of teachers new to the classroom.
- Master Teachers in Western NY serving as cooperating teachers in math are participating in a Professional Learning Team to discuss how they can best support their pre-service colleagues, **modeling how even the most experienced mentors learn from pre-service teachers.**
- Master Teachers serve as mentors for **SUNY's Urban Tech Education Center (SUTEC)**, assisting students fulfilling their student teaching requirements in New York City schools and serving as a resource for teaching in an urban setting.

## MASTER TEACHERS WORKING WITH IN-SERVICE TEACHERS:

- Master Teachers partnered with the Mid-Hudson Teacher Resource Center to design **"Demo Derby,"** a showcase of science teachers' best demonstrations to share knowledge and ideas and inspire all teachers.
- Master Teachers are collaborating with elementary school colleagues and the Director for K-12 Math, Science and Technology Integration in the Saratoga Schools City School District to **design science curricula for K-5 students.**
- Master Teachers are partnering with K-5 teachers in Western NY to **study K-12 science learning progressions** and The Next Generation Science Standards, exploring teachers' and students' ideas about physical science in K-12 classrooms.
- Master Teachers are organizing various social media platforms to **encourage discipline-specific collaboration** and sharing among all teachers.
- Earth Science Master Teachers in Central NY are **helping colleagues implement "Research Symposia"** as a way for students to conduct and present authentic science research to panels of experienced educators in their region.
- Master Teachers in Western NY and New York City are engaging in **Lesson Study**, a professional development practice championed by Japanese educators. This year, pre-service and in-service teachers were invited to engage in a math and a chemistry lesson study as a means to enhance collaborative lesson planning.
- Master Teachers are collaborating within and across regions to **lead workshops on successful teaching practices** at district superintendent days, for their local BOCES, and at annual regional and statewide conferences of the NYS STEM Collaborative, the Science Teachers Association of NYS, the Association of Mathematics Teachers of NYS, and the NYS Association for Computers and Technologies in Education.

