

Summary Findings from the External Evaluation

The Exploratorium aims to strengthen leadership for science improvement in diverse local contexts across the state. Evidence gathered to date¹ affirms the consistent excellence of the Exploratorium’s programs for developing K-12 science educators’ leadership capacities. Over time, local science leaders are seeing positive results of their efforts to support teachers in implementing NGSS. Still, large numbers of administrators and teachers lack the knowledge and resources they need to realize their goals of implementing NGSS. The combination of promising results and ongoing need suggests that the Exploratorium should continue—and even expand—its efforts to develop K-12 science leaders and support their local efforts to improve science.

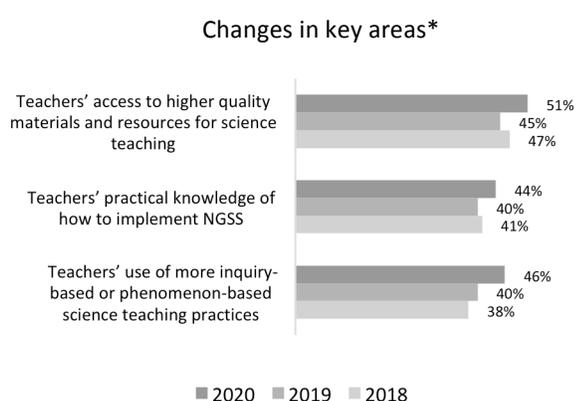
1. The Exploratorium’s institutes for K-12 science leaders earn consistently high ratings for quality and value.

Exploratorium leadership institutes are—	2020	2019	2018
High in quality	98%	97%	100%
<i>Higher in quality than other science professional development</i>	95%	92%	93%
High in value	99%	95%	98%
<i>Higher in value than other science professional development</i>	95%	90%	90%

2. The Exploratorium leadership network helps K-12 science educators build multiple capacities for leadership.

Being part of the Exploratorium K-12 leadership network—	2020	2019	2018
Has made me a better provider of professional development	98%	95%	98%
Increases my confidence as a leader	94%	91%	91%
Provides an important professional community for me	91%	91%	95%
Gives me stronger ties to local science educators	89%	87%	91%
Increases access to opportunities for leadership	86%	85%	87%

3. Local improvements in classrooms are becoming more visible over time.



*Reported by K-12 science leaders.

4. The majority of administrators and teachers still require support to implement NGSS.

California’s adoption of NGSS placed a heavy burden on under-equipped districts, schools and teachers. There are disparities between educators’ goals and their capacities to meet them.

- While 60% of local administrators value science, only 26% understand NGSS*
- While 44% of teachers want to implement NGSS, only 36% are familiar with the standards.*

*Reported by K-12 science leaders May 2020.

¹ **Sources of data.** Inverness Research (<https://inverness-research.org/>) has served as the external evaluator of the Exploratorium’s initiative to contribute to science improvement statewide. Over four years, IR has conducted in-person observations and collected participants’ ratings of leadership institutes, on-line workshops, and other core activities; engaged over 100 K-12 leaders in in-depth interviews; and measured network members’ leadership activity and impact across the state through annual surveys.