



PLTW Launch FAQs

Q: How is the curriculum/program developed?

A: We develop all PLTW Programs using the following approach and guiding tenets:

- **Collaboration:** We seek ongoing input and feedback from students, teachers, administrators, and subject matter experts. Our work is also informed by current research and experts in academics and industry.
- **Research/Evidence-Based:** We follow Wiggins and McTighe's approach, Understanding by Design® to develop a cohesive and coherent instructional path for students.
- **Problem-Based:** We design activity-, project-, problem-based experiences to prepare students to solve problems. This approach creates scaffolding for student learning and provides the rigor and relevance that engages and empowers our students.

Q: How much classroom instructional time should each module take to complete?

A: Each module is designed to be delivered in ten (10) hours of classroom instruction. Recommendations for the length of time needed for lessons within each module are also made, but we encourage teachers to allocate instructional time as is best for his/her students.

Q: Can we see the curriculum?

A: An overview of the modules and specific curriculum outlines are available for content aligned to kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 4th grade.

Q: Is PLTW Launch aligned to the Common Core, and where can I find that information?

A: Yes. Alignment to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core State Standards in Math and English are included in the Curriculum Frameworks for each module.

Q: When will the frameworks for 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade aligned curriculum be ready?

A: On November 15, we will post Curriculum Frameworks to the **PLTW Launch** website for:

- Light and Sound (aligned to 1st grade standards)
- Stability and Motion: Science of Flight (aligned to 3rd grade standards)
- Robotics and Automation (aligned to 5th grade standards)

Q: Are lower-level modules required to build foundational knowledge for higher level modules (e.g., are students required to have taken Structure and Function before Light and Sound)?

A: There is no requirement or prerequisite among modules. Modules are aligned to grade level standards in the Next Generation Science Standards as well as Common Core State Standards in Math and English, but students may take modules without having experienced previous modules.

Q: Is the first module in a pair required before the second (e.g., is Light and Sound required before Light: Observing the Earth, Sun, Moon, and Stars)?

A: It is highly recommended, though not required, for the first module in a paired set to be taught before the second. The modules were written in pairs to allow students to engage in more in-depth exploration of concepts in the second module.

Q: Why is the content so focused on engineering?

A: We strategically started with modules that focus on the engineering design process in order to provide the most immediate support to schools in addressing the Next Generation Science Standards. Modules in the Computer Science and Biomedical Sciences pathways will be developed.

Q: Can we include sixth grade students in PLTW Launch?

A: **PLTW Launch** is designed for flexible implementation, allowing schools to teach any of the modules at the grade level that best meets the needs of their students.

Q: What kinds of assessments will be available?

A: Both formative and summative assessments will be integrated throughout the curriculum. Assessments for learning and of learning play a critical role by providing meaningful feedback to students, teachers, and administrators.

Q: What are the various ways that PLTW Launch can be implemented at my school?

A: We're glad you asked! Stay tuned for implementation examples as we learn what works from our pilot schools during the course of this year.

Q: How do we get teachers trained?

A: After registration, your school will select one or more individuals to become **PLTW Launch** Lead Teachers. After completing on-line readiness training, the Lead Teacher will engage in a rigorous two and a half day training which introduces them to the activity-, project-, problem-based pedagogy characteristic of all Project Lead The Way programs. Pedagogy is delivered through exposure to a set of hands-on activities from the **PLTW Launch** modules.

The Lead Teacher then has responsibility to train other teachers in the building, aid in inventory management, and play the role of coach and guide. Grade-level teachers in the building become certified to teach **PLTW Launch** modules through completion of on-demand Readiness training; an in-building, in-person Core Training delivered by their Lead Teacher; and completion of module-specific on-demand Core Training.

Q: Is there any grant funding available?

A: PLTW continuously works to secure funding from corporations and foundations to support the growth of PLTW programs. As grants become available for **PLTW Launch** programs, we will notify the network of opportunities.

Q: What is the cost to implement PLTW Launch?

A: Please use the *Getting Started with PLTW Launch: 2014-15 Pricing Guide*, located on pltw.org/launch, in order to understand the total investment for your specific implementation.

Q: What is included in the Participation Fee?

A: As part of PLTW's charitable mission, curriculum is provided at no charge to participating schools. The Participation Fee is assessed per school (as determined by unique school NCES code) and includes access to all the program features for which a school has a trained teacher, including, but not limited to, personalized regional support; access to a Learning Management System for all teachers and rostered students; continuous improvement updates to the program; assessments; required on-demand Readiness, on-demand Core and Ongoing teacher professional development; teacher professional learning communities (PLCs); reporting tools; and school and technical support.

Q: What is not included in the Participation Fee?

A: The Participation Fee does not cover:

- Lead Teacher Core Training costs and related expenses
- Equipment and supplies, including annual consumables
- Unlimited print materials

Q: If a PLTW school has satellite campuses, how will PLTW invoice the Participation Fee?

A: The Participation Fee is assessed for each school site (determined by unique NCES code), and will be invoiced to the entity that signed the PLTW Agreement. If there are several schools or sites from a district that offer PLTW Programs, one consolidated invoice will be sent to the entity that signed the PLTW Agreement.

Q: When will school sites be invoiced for the Participation Fee?

A: New school sites will be invoiced immediately upon signing the PLTW Agreement. Either a P.O. number or full payment will need to be made in order for new schools to register for Core Training, access the full equipment lists, and access curriculum through the Learning Management System (LMS). For existing school sites, invoices will be sent the first week of May, with payments due August 31.

Q: Is the Participation Fee an annual fee?

A: Yes. The Participation Fee covers all modules in the **PLTW Launch** program from July 1 – June 30, including the additional 12 modules that will be released in the 2015-16 school year.

Q: Do we have to buy a tablet for every student?

A: Tablets are recommended at a maximum of 4 students per tablet. Schools will need to assess their current and future needs to determine the right ratio and specific iPad tablet choice for their students.

Q: How many VEX kits should I order?

A: It is recommended to purchase the PLTW VEX IQ Construction kits and PLTW VEX IQ Robot Design kits in the student-to-kit range of 2:1 to 4:1.

Q: When is the latest I can sign up for PLTW Launch and still implement for 2014-15?

A: Registration for 2014-15 will remain open until teachers are no longer able to attend Core Training, or there are no longer open seats in Core Training sessions. For other PLTW programs, the cutoff is typically the end of July.

Q: Do we have to order supplies via PLTW's pre-made kits?

A: No. While kits have been created to ease the ordering burden for schools, teachers may elect to purchase their own consumables and durables separately. No partial kits are available.