

A CRITICAL ELEMENT

Your district has researched the best science program available and has decided on an inquiry centered, hands on, standards based, kit program. Everyone wants the program to be successful and to produce the anticipated high gains in student science achievement. The kits have been purchased or leased. The teachers have been given at least the introductory training to use the kits effectively. So what is missing? Answer—**science materials support!**

Research shows that science materials support is a critical part of successful hands on science programs. What is science materials support? Simply, it is the storage, preparation, refurbishment and timely delivery and pick up of science kits—**making sure everything a teacher needs to teach inquiry centered science is available and ready to use when the teacher needs it.**

How is your district going to provide this essential component of a successful science program? Some districts attempt to provide their own science materials support center. This solution works well for certain districts with the necessary warehouse space, personnel to refurbish the kits, a transportation system that can provide timely pick up and delivery of kits, and an administrator to oversee the program. Self provided science materials support programs come with some real and/or hidden costs that the district needs to carefully identify.

ETHOS Goals

1. Provide excellent support for K–12 inquiry-centered science instruction that is hands-on, research-based, and standards driven (Meets the National Science Standards)
2. Maintain a quality distribution and refurbishment center that supports the hands-on science curriculum
3. Provide professional development for teachers of science to enhance science content knowledge as well as inquiry instruction and assessment methods
4. Continue to use an assessment process to monitor program development and student achievement and make any needed modifications that would enhance the program based on feedback and observations
5. Host annually at least one major science promotion community event that acknowledges all sponsors
6. Provide a hands on science museum to serve as a catalyst to engage people of all ages into enjoying a better understanding of science and the world around us

Contact Info

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A WORD OF CAUTION

Self providing districts sometimes ship the kits and refurbishing materials directly to school buildings or even to specific teachers. Storage space often proves to be a real problem. Teachers will often use the kits the first time as the kits come pretty much ready to use. Prior to subsequent uses the teachers have to do the refurbishing process and since teachers have so much to do, refurbishing can easily get postponed. Postponement can become extended or even permanent. Experience has repeatedly shown that self providing districts without full-blown, fully staffed science materials centers lose effectiveness in two to three years.

Hands on science will be taught more effectively if science materials are managed for teachers and made available to teachers when they need them.

To teach inquiry centered science modules, the teacher needs all the “stuff” of science—containers, scales, chemicals, and living organisms. New materials make science inviting to children and bring them into the world of scientists and how they work.

In the past, teachers often had the responsibility of gathering the materials outlined in the teacher’s guide to teach inquiry centered science. This did not prove to be realistic or efficient because few elementary teachers had the time or the expertise to do this job well.

The biggest benefit to school districts is convenience. With science kit management by ETHOS The school district does not have to house the Science Materials Support Center. This often requires thousands of square feet of warehouse space that many districts do not have. The district does not have to order, store and replace the consumable materials needed for each use of a kit. The district does not have to employ and pay benefits to additional personnel to refurbish and manage the kits. ETHOS completely insures the kits while being stored and refurbished. Kit management includes warehouse space, insurance, warehouse equipment (shelving, tools, washing machines, etc.), staff (Materials/warehouse manager and clerks), order processing, refurbishing labor (cleaning, re-stocking, checking and packing kits for reuse), and other overhead costs such as accounting, inventory and tracking software, energy, water, etc.

Many school districts find it quite feasible to contract out science materials support as a way of saving space, employee benefits, and supervisory effort.

Many kits require some teacher preparation of materials prior to having students use the kits. ETHOS does most pre-preps for the teacher. ETHOS provides other value added services that are customized for each client district.



Science Materials Support



Science Kit Management

The Benefits of Choosing ETHOS

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The materials **ETHOS** uses for refurbishing science kits meet or exceed the quality refurbishment specified by the kit publishers. **ETHOS** does not cut corners when it comes to refurbishing your kits.

The National Science Resources Center

(NSRC) promotes Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) which is based on five elements: Researched Kits, Professional Development, Science Materials Support, Appropriate Assessment, and Administrative/Community Support.

ETHOS is committed to the LASER model and is staffed to provide help in each of the above areas.

Features	Self Provided Science Materials Support	Any Refurbisher	Distributor Lease	ETHOS Full Service
Will you own the kits at contract end?				YES
Will teacher preparation items be customized to your needs?				YES
Will the kits be in warehouse storage while kits are not in use?				YES
Will the kits be insured?				YES
Will all refurbishment be done for you?				YES
Will much/all teacher pre-prep work be done for the teachers?				YES
Will timely pick up and delivery of kits be provided?				YES
Will introductory kit training for the teachers be provided?				YES
Will extended professional development be available?				YES
Will you have toll-free and e-mail support?				YES
Will your requests for support get a response in less than 24 hours?				YES
Will the quality of your consumable materials replacements meet or exceed the original materials?				YES
Will broken or lost non-consumables be replaced?				YES
Will you know the TRUE cost of all services?				YES

Work with providers to fill in the cells above. When finished, we are confident you will see the value of choosing ETHOS for science program support.

ETHOS can provide a full quote in a few days with the stipulation that it is only good for 30 days from the date of the quote. **ETHOS** can also provide an estimate very quickly with the understanding that it is not a quote and that it is based on several assumptions about average costs.

To get a quote or an estimate for **ETHOS** services go to “Get a Quote” under the Science Kit Management Tab on the **ETHOS** home page—

<http://ethosinc.org>

ETHOS is currently providing:

Science materials management for: Fairfield Community Schools (K–6) and Elkhart Community Schools (K–6) as well as Professional development for Elkhart Community Schools and other Northern Indiana Educators.

**Helping students learn science
Helping students love science**