WANTED!
High school biology teachers to pilot digital science units that use “big data.”

What is Zoom In? Zoom In is an online curriculum platform designed to develop students’ evidence-based thinking and writing skills as called for in the NGSS. The tool supports students in analyzing and interpreting data as they build their understanding of key biology concepts.

During each drop-in Zoom In curriculum module, students work dynamically with authentic data sets and learn to use the data as evidence to answer questions about topics including polymorphism, trophic cascades, and population divergence. The tool provides scaffolding for students as they read, interpret, and actively manipulate data sets, and also as they use their data analysis as a foundation for building evidence-supported arguments. The blended modules also aim to support teachers in launching, guiding, assessing, and responding to student work.

What does participation in the pilot involve? Teachers will pilot one or more curriculum modules (approximately three to five class periods each) with one class of students (or more). Teachers will provide feedback to researchers through interviews about their perceptions of the module and suggestions for improvement. Researchers also will observe two to four classes when students are using the tools.

Who is developing these resources? The project is funded by the National Science Foundation and is conducted by researchers from EDC’s Center for Children and Technology (EDC|CCT), a nonprofit research and development company.

What are the goals and purposes of this study? This study will help us to refine the Zoom In platform and curriculum module design so that they can effectively support the needs of high school science teachers and students in employing data skills as a tool for gaining deeper insight into biology concepts.

What do I get for participating? Teachers and/or schools will be compensated for their time and effort in a manner that is in accordance with their school district’s policies. We are offering $200 for each completed lesson module. (There are 3)

Who is eligible to participate in the study? High school science teachers, ideally in the New York metro area, with at least three years of experience, who teach about polymorphism, trophic cascades, and/or population divergence during the course of their regular curriculum, are eligible to participate. Internet and computer access for a three-day period is required.

How can I sign up, or find out more about the study? To learn more about piloting a module, please email Megan Silander at zisci@edc.org or call 212-807-4219.