

Strategies for Acquiring Materials

The materials used in the Core Knowledge Science program (CKSci) are readily available and can be acquired through both retail and online stores. Some of the materials will be reusable and are meant to be used repeatedly. This includes equipment such as scales, beakers, and safety goggles but also items such as plastic cups that can be safely used again. Often these materials are durable, can be cleaned, and will last for more than one activity or even one school year. Other materials are classified as consumable and are not able to be used more than once, such as glue, baking soda, and aluminum foil.

Online Resources



The Material Supply List for this unit's activities can be found online. Follow the links in the Online Resources Guide for this unit:

www.coreknowledge.org/cksci-online-resources

Ways to Engage with Your Community

The total cost of materials can add up for an entire unit, even when the materials required for activities and demonstrations have been selected to be individually affordable. And the time needed to acquire the materials adds up too. Reaching out to your community to help support STEM education is a great way to engage parents, guardians, and others with the teaching of science, as well as to reduce the cost and time of collecting the materials. With that in mind, the materials list can be distributed or used as a reference for the materials teachers will need to acquire to teach the unit.

Consider some of the following as methods for acquiring the science materials:

- **School Supply Drive**—If your school has a supply drive at any point in the year, consider distributing materials lists as wish lists for the science department.
- **Open Houses**—Have materials lists available during open houses. Consider having teams of volunteers perform an activity to show attendees how the materials will be used throughout the year.
- **Parent-Teacher Organizations**—Reach out to the local PTO for assistance with acquiring materials.
- **Science Fair Drive**—Consider adding a table to your science fair as part of a science materials drive for future units.
- **College or University Service Project**—Ask service organizations affiliated with your local higher education institutions to sponsor your program by providing materials.
- **Local Businesses**—Some businesses have discounts for teachers to purchase school supplies. Others may want to advertise as sponsors for your school/programs. Usually you will be asked for verifiable proof that you are a teacher and/or for examples of how their sponsorship will benefit students.

Remember: If your school is public, it will be tax exempt, so make sure to have a Tax Identification Number (TIN) when purchasing materials. If your school is private, you may need proof of 501(c)(3) status to gain tax exemption. Check with your school for any required documentation.