



# WeatherBlur

Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance  
[www.weatherblur.com](http://www.weatherblur.com)

Join Us!

WeatherBlur, the *student-driven* community science platform hosted by the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, is recruiting for new teachers for the 2021 - 2022 school year!

## Who are we looking for?

- Teachers of **grades 3-8** (preference given to teams of teachers from the same school) in **rural schools** who do NOT currently have any teachers in their school already using WeatherBlur and who can obtain **administrative permission**.
- Teachers who are excited to help us collect data to inform the research we are doing around the role of computational thinking in citizen science. *And, NO, you do not need to know what computational thinking is to participate!*

## Why WeatherBlur?

- *Let your students lead:* WeatherBlur puts your students in the driver's seat of leading a scientific investigation. They engage with all parts of the process from posing a question to developing investigation protocols to collecting the data. Students see real consequences of their work by creating action projects at the end of their investigations.
- *Connect to community:* The WeatherBlur community is made up of students, teachers, scientists, and experts from across the United States. From a one-room schoolhouse on an island on the coast of Maine to a large school district in Mississippi, students can work together to design projects, collaborate on data collection, and share about the unique communities and cultural features of where they live. WeatherBlur builds community and empowers students to be involved in real world solutions that concern them.
- *Interact safely online:* Students connect to the WeatherBlur community using our safe and secure online platform. Here students can pose questions, engage in scientific discussion and present data.
- *It's not just about weather!:* we have had investigations into king tides, microplastics, beach trash, green crabs in lobster traps, acorn drops, bird sightings, maple syrup production, shape of stones on beaches, to name a few. Whatever your students find exciting, relevant and important could rise up to be an investigation.

There is no other community science program that is driven by YOUR students.

### What are the benefits and expectations of participation?

Currently, WeatherBlur is funded through a National Science Foundation grant (NSF #1217247). The *Computational Thinking Through Citizen Science in the Classroom* project (WBC) co-designs learning modules with K-8 educators to highlight computational thinking skills that can be gained by integrating math standards with community science initiatives. As part of our research, we are partnering with teachers to learn how students and teachers interact with the computational thinking and community science supports we are creating. This research funding allows us to keep participation in WeatherBlur free for the year as well as offer a stipend to teachers willing to help us collect data.

#### *Benefits*

- Monthly networking sessions (virtual)
- Bi-weekly update/help sessions (virtual)
- Full access to all WB content, professional learning, and a two-day virtual Summer Institute
- Access to scientist partners from a wide range of disciplines
- End of year student event to showcase action projects
- **\$500 Research Stipend**
- Limited, but available, funds available for WB Investigation equipment for the 2021-2022 school year

#### *Expectations*

Participate in all research activities including, but not limited to:

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Data collection</b>
July (prior to training)	Teacher Pre-Survey
July/August (Summer Institute or shortly after)	Teacher Interview Teacher Focus Groups
September (prior to WB start)	Administer Student Pre-Survey
November (during WB)	Teacher Check-in Interview Classroom Observations (case study teachers only)
April/May (after WB wrap-up)	Teacher End of Year Interview Teacher Post-Survey Administer Student Post-Survey

### **How do I apply?**

If you can check the following boxes, please fill out [this form](#) to apply. If you are unsure about some of the requirements, please reach out to [Rhonda Tate](#), WeatherBlur Project Manager, with questions.

- I am a classroom teacher of grades 3-8.
- I am NOT in a school where teachers already use WeatherBlur.
- I am applying as part of a school team (highly recommended, but not required).
- I am in a rural school (if you are not sure if you are “rural” please reach out to [rtate@mmsa.org](mailto:rtate@mmsa.org)).
- I am able to secure administrative support.