



**Funded by The Newton Schools Foundation**  
[www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org](http://www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org)

**Science at ESP?**  
**Edison would say: "What a bright idea!"**  
**Grantee: John McKenna**

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## Mission Statement

*The mission of the Newton Schools Foundation is to enhance and broaden community support for public education and to provide funding for innovative and challenging programs in the Newton Public Schools. This private, 501 (c)(3) non-profit community foundation is governed by a Board of Directors which represents community and business leaders, parents and teachers.*

## Project Overview:

Science at the Elementary Stabilization Program is an effort to give students with emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities the opportunity to participate in authentic, science based activities while developing self-esteem, self-management skills, self-awareness, and resilience. Due to the pervasive behavioral, emotional, and learning needs of the students, it can be challenging to engage these students in real academic tasks. In some behavioral programs, the curriculum can be "watered down" or even be devoid of authentic learning tasks. This model or philosophy can seem productive on the surface, since it takes stress off the student during a time of crisis. It, however, often leads to boredom, does not prepare students to return to their schools, and does not provide students with the opportunity to make effective social and educational progress. The Elementary Stabilization Program believes that through collaboration, all students can be successful and should have the opportunity to be enriched through engaging activities. Grant monies will be used to purchase materials necessary to follow Newton's grade level science curriculum as well as fund program based science field trips.



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